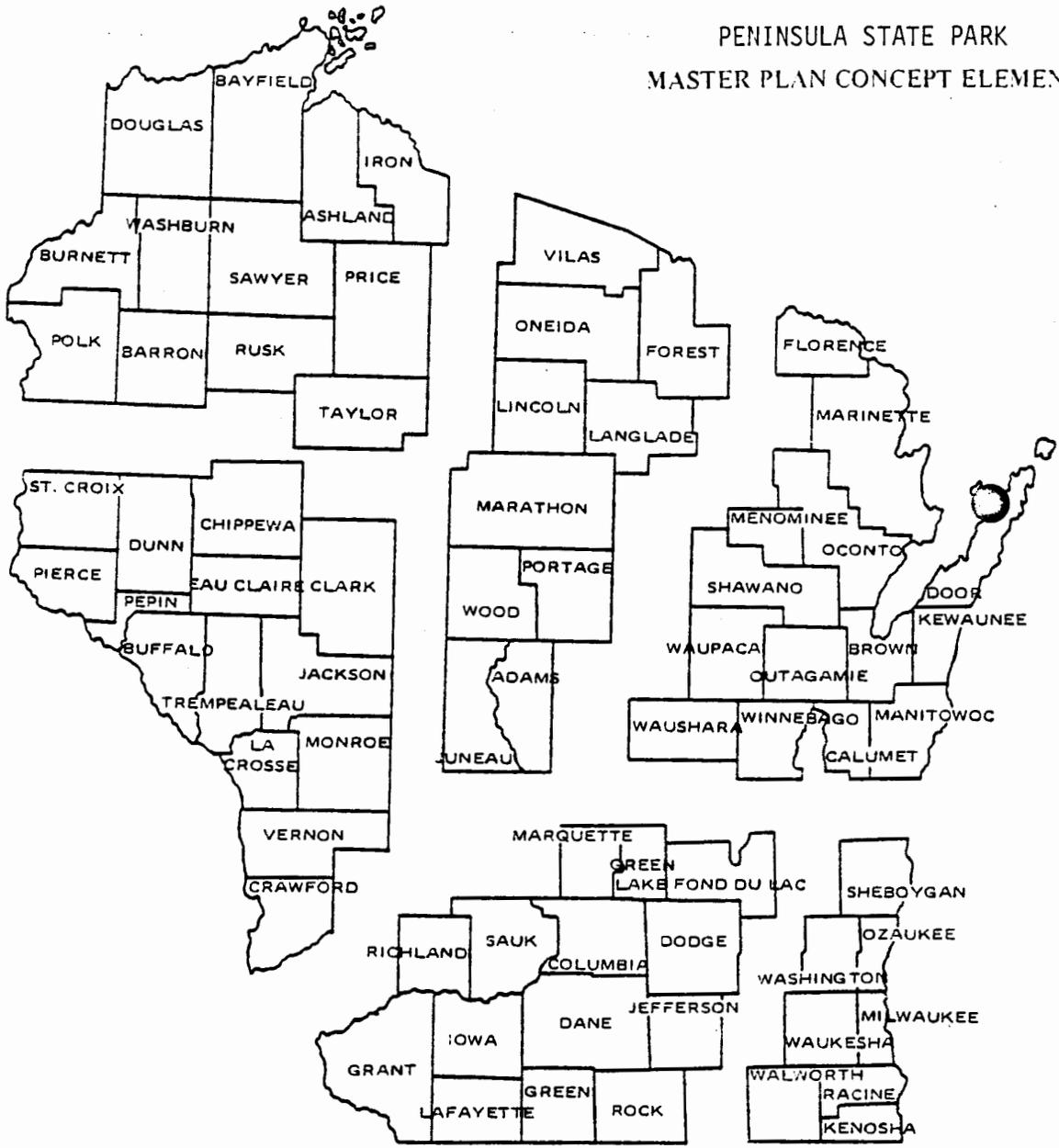


PENINSULA STATE PARK
 MASTER PLAN CONCEPT ELEMENT



Approved by Natural Resources Board:

1-29-81

Date

PROPERTY TASK FORCE

- Leader - Daniel C. Rogers, Park Planner
- Gary Patzke, Park Manager
- Jordan Korotev, Area Forester
- Daniel G. Olson, Area Wildlife Manager
- Lee Kernan, Area Fish Manager

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 MADISON, WISCONSIN

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I. Background Information	1
A. Location and Regional Context	1
B. History of the Area	2
C. History of the Park	2
D. Present Use and Management	3
II. Resource Capabilities and Inventory	3
A. Geology	3
B. Soils	4
C. Vegetation	4
D. Fishery	5
E. Wildlife	5
F. Water Resources	5
G. Wetlands	6
H. Existing Recreational Development	6
I. Historical and Archaeological Features	8
J. Land Use	9
III. Management Problems and Related Concerns	10
A. Multiple Access Points	10
B. Internal Town Roads	10
C. New Recreation Modes Desired	10
D. Land Acquisition	10
E. Traffic Pattern and Flow	10
F. Nicolet Drainage	10
G. Views and Vistas	10
H. Pine Plantation Management	10
I. Sewage Lagoon Adequacy	10
J. Horseshoe Island	11
K. Boat Launching Facilities	11
L. The Energy Crisis	11
M. Weborg Point Campground	11
N. Hunting at Peninsula	11
O. Golf Course	11
P. Bicycle Traffic	11
IV. Recreation Needs and Other Factors	12
A. Approved Planning Guidelines	12
B. Recreation Demands and Needs	12
V. Concept Alternatives and Analyses	12
A. Alternatives	12
B. Analyses	13
VI. Recommended Alternative	14
VII. Goals and Objectives	14
A. Goal	14
B. Objectives	14
VIII. Actions to Accomplish Goals and Objectives	14
A. Land Acquisition	14
B. Management and Policy	15
C. Development	16
IX. Cost and Phasing	17
A. General Cost Estimate	17
B. Phasing	18

Appendix

A. Regional Map

B. Park Facilities Map

C. Actions Pertaining to the Park

D. Ownership Map

E. Soils

F. General Site Limitation Map

G. Forest Cover Type Map

H. Fish Resources

I. Wildlife

J. Campground Maps

K. Planning Guidelines

L. Land Use Map

M. Scientific Areas

N. Council Review Comments and Department Response

O. Master Plan Input Workshop Summary

I. Background Information

A. Location and Regional Context

Peninsula State Park is located in northeastern Wisconsin on the west shore of the Door Peninsula, between the Towns of Fish Creek and Ephraim (see locator map in Appendix A.).

The Door Peninsula area is well known for its scenic beauty. Its combination of rugged shoreline, bays, sand beaches, woodlands and charming small towns makes the area very appealing to many people. Recreational opportunities and special cultural events combine to make the area one of the most attractive vacation spots in the midwest.

The area is also important agriculturally because it is a cherry and apple producing region. Many orchards dot the landscape further adding to the region's natural beauty.

The industrial economy of the area is centered around small manufacturing and shipbuilding. Ship building has a long tradition on the Peninsula due to the area's natural harbors and in the early days, its timber resources. The shipyards at Sturgeon Bay are currently producing commercial freighters and pleasure craft for the Great Lakes market. Another aspect of the area's industrial economy is the development of vacation homes and related services. The combination of tourism, industry and agriculture has led to a relatively strong local economy.

The Door Peninsula is made up of small towns and villages, the largest being Sturgeon Bay (pop. 6,776). The resident population of Door County is approximately 22,500 and has remained relatively stable over the past 30 years. Although it does not have a large population of its own, the area is relatively close to population centers of the region.

The following accessibility table indicates travel time and distance from various areas to the park.

Accessibility Table

City	Distance	Approximate Travel Time - Auto 55 mph	Population (1978 Estimate)
Chicago	256 Mi.	4 Hrs., 40 Min.	3,500,000
Milwaukee	164 Mi.	3 Hours	630,162
Madison	198 Mi.	3 Hrs., 40 Min.	171,113
Green Bay	66 Mi.	1 Hr., 15 Min.	89,289
Wausau	159 Mi.	3 Hours	33,164
Appleton	96 Mi.	1 Hr., 45 Min.	61,416
Oshkosh	116 Mi.	2 Hrs., 10 Min.	50,259
Fond du Lac	127 Mi.	2 Hrs., 20 Min.	36,205
Manitowoc	85 Mi.	1 Hr., 30 Min.	32,957
Sheboygan	112 Mi.	2 Hours	48,371
Rockford	238 Mi.	4 Hrs., 20 Min.	145,000
		TOTAL	4,787,936

Approximately 4.8 million people live less than five hours driving time of the Door Peninsula area.

Two major State highways serve the area. They are State Highway 57, coming from the west, and State Highway 42, from the south. They converge at Sturgeon Bay to cross the Sturgeon Bay ship canal and continue on up into the Peninsula. A major new highway bridge has been constructed and crosses the ship canal to the east of Sturgeon Bay. This new bridge facilitates access to the northern section of the Peninsula. The old bridge was a traditional bottleneck during peak vacation periods.

Highways are not the only means of access. Many parts of the Peninsula area are accessible by water. Marinas and docking facilities can be found in Sturgeon Bay, Egg Harbor, Ephraim, Fish Creek, Sister Bay, Ellison Bay and Gills Rock. Although a large craft is needed to traverse the open water of Lake Michigan, a significant increase in boat traffic has been noted.

Charter air transportation service is available at Sturgeon Bay's Cherryland Airport. Its 4,600-foot runway can accommodate medium-sized jets as well as light aircraft. In addition, there are small airfields at Ephraim and on Washington Island.

The factor that contributes most to its popularity is the wide range of recreational opportunities, in addition to the region's natural beauty, proximity to population and accessibility.

The beaches and surrounding waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan provide opportunities for swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing and scuba diving. Onshore activities include camping, hiking, sightseeing, horseback riding, golf, tennis, hunting, shopping in the many specialty shops and dining in some of the unique restaurants. During the winter, skiing, ski touring and snowmobiling are popular.

Cultural activities figure prominently in the area scene. The Door Peninsula has a longstanding tradition in the fine arts. Theater, music and dance presentations are a common occurrence throughout the summer season.

The Door Peninsula area offers a wide variety of activities to suit the varied interest of visitors. Each year the area receives about two million visitors, most of which come to take part in some form of recreation activity.

B. History of the Area

Prior to white settlement of the Door Peninsula, the area was inhabited by many different Indian cultures. Most recent tribes included the Menominee, Fox, Winnebago and Iroquois.

The first permanent white settler, Increase Claflin, arrived on the Door Peninsula in 1842. Claflin's homestead was located within the present day park. In the early 1850's, Peter Weborg and Evan Nelson led 35 families to settle on a point of land now named Weborg Point within Peninsula State Park. Because the rocky, thin soil of the county was poor for farming, the early settlers soon began to turn to fishing for their livelihood. Whitefish and herring were abundant in the surrounding waters. Ships sailing Green Bay also had need of supplies, repairs and refuge from storms. In the early 1900's, steamships stopped weekly at Fish Creek and Ephraim, where local settlers supplied them with firewood. Eagle Island, a part of Peninsula State Park, at the mouth of Nicolet Bay was also a docking site for the steamers to take on wood.

As the fishing enterprise began to decline, residents turned their attention to lumbering. This proved to be a faltering industry, too. In 1866, cherry and apple orchards were first established on the Peninsula. The cool, damp influence of Lake Michigan proved to be ideal for the growth of these trees so that even today these orchards are an important part of the local economy.

C. History of the Park (See Appendix C)

The Legislature of 1907 created Wisconsin's first State Park Board. The Board engaged landscape architect John Nolen to recommend outstanding areas of Wisconsin for inclusion in a State park system. His recommendation to that Board included, the Dells of the Wisconsin River, the Devil's Lake region, the lands in Grant County near Wyalusing and the lands in Door County near Fish Creek. The Board reported to Governor Davidson in favor of establishing a State park system and, in 1910, Peninsula State Park was established and acquired by State purchase. Included were 3,240 acres.

Development began soon after the purchase of the park and camping areas were designated (not individual sites). Camping was originally free and later a 50¢ per day or \$5.00 per year fee was established.

The park golf course was constructed soon after the park was established. It was begun by a group of Ephraim businessmen as a nine-hole course with sand "greens". Later the course was expanded to eighteen holes.

During the 1920's and 30's, Peninsula State Park was the location of the State's first game farm. The farm and rearing pens were located near the present group camping area and the open area of Nicolet Bay campground.

During the depression years, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established at the park. CCC men built towers, stone fences, hiking trails and many of the stone buildings found in the park today. During the summer of 1945, a German prisoner of war camp was located in Fish Creek. Prisoners did construction jobs, wood cutting and cherry picking in the park and surrounding area.

A private girl's camp known as Camp Neenahga was operated in the park near the present day tennis court during the 1920's and 30's. Girls came from all around the country for a summer of horseback riding, canoeing and ballet.

A sawmill was located in the park from about 1920 to 1961. Dead, diseased and wind-downed trees were cut up and the lumber used in many Wisconsin State parks.

Park use has grown steadily over the years. In 1935, when records were first kept, the park had 66,579 visitors. By 1965, the attendance had grown to 597,794 and by 1979, the annual attendance was 1,226,774, making Peninsula the second most heavily used State park. Annual camper days have risen from 119,090 in 1965 to 161,025 in 1979.

D. Present Use and Management

1. Peninsula State Park attendance has reached 1,226,774 visitors in 1979. It remains the second most popular State park in the State park system. Since 1955, park visitation has increased steadily.
2. A total of 3,762.85 acres is currently under state ownership with an additional 33.22 acres yet to be acquired. When compared with other state parks, Peninsula is one of the most complete in terms of land ownership.
3. When placed in comparison to other State parks, it contributes 16% to the overall State park revenue and uses only 9% for operations. Peninsula, besides supporting itself, contributes 7% of the revenue needed to operate the State park systems.
4. The most popular recreational activities at Peninsula are camping, swimming, fishing, hiking, biking, boating, ski touring, sightseeing and nature study. In addition, an 18-hole golf course is available in the park.

The focus of much of the recreation use within the park is camping. That is, people come to the park camp and participate in a wide range of recreational activities both inside and outside the park boundary.

5. Previous Management and Development Guidelines

In its long history, Peninsula has been managed and developed by a number of different people and has existed during some difficult world crises, including two world wars and the Great Depression. Still, it has evolved and survived in a condition that is a credit to all people involved. Peninsula accommodates a number of traditional forms of recreation -- camping, swimming, picnicking, hiking, etc., while protecting and preserving one of the most spectacular landscapes in Wisconsin. This has been accomplished by always considering the well-being of the resource foremost when making decisions affecting the park.

6. Two areas in the park have been designated as State scientific areas. They are Scientific Area Number 12, Peninsula Beech-Maple Forest, and Scientific Area Number 13, Peninsula White Cedar Forest, which are described in DNR Technical Bulletin 102 (1977). The White Cedar Forest Scientific Area is 53 acres in size and contains a white cedar-spruce forest on an abandoned Lake Michigan beach. Also present is a population of Dwarf Lake Iris, *Iris lacustris*, a threatened species in Wisconsin, occurring on the former beach terrace. Peninsula Beech-Maple Forest Scientific Area, 80 acres in size, encompasses a mesic northern forest of American beech, sugar maple, hemlock, red oak and white pine and grades to a drier forest on the Niagara Escarpment, where white cedar, white birch and hardwoods dominate. Management of both scientific areas is aimed at protecting the biotic components in a natural condition allowing as little disturbance as possible. Use for classes and teaching, nature observation, hiking, photography and research are encouraged. A natural area information sheet and map of each scientific area appears in Appendix M.

II. Resource Capabilities and Inventory

A. Geology

Niagara limestone deposited by the Silurian Sea some 400,000,000 million years ago forms the backbone of Door Peninsula. It is over 350 feet thick in the park. This bedrock formation slants downward to the southeast, lies under Lake Michigan and much of the State of Michigan and reappears along the eastern Great Lakes.

Thick glacial ice covered Door County through much of the Ice Age period. As the glaciers melted, two glacial lakes, Glacial Lake Algonquin and Glacial Lake Nipissing, inundated much of the area that is now Peninsula State Park. Glacial Lake Algonquin existed from about 9,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C. Glacial Lake Nipissing was present during the period from 4,000 B.C. until 3,000 B.C. Evidence of these lakes' ancient shorelines and rounded beach cobbles are visible in the park. Large "sea caves" were smashed into the base of the park's 180-foot High Eagle Cliff by the glacial lakes' pounding waves.

B. Soils

The soils of Peninsula State Park are of glacial and lacustrine origin. As the glaciers receded, they laid down a thin mantle of soil known as glacial drift that overlays the Niagara limestone of Door County. Soils present at the park are listed in Appendix E and are shown in gross classifications on a soils map. Also shown in approximated degree of limitation for general recreational development for each soil. A generalized map showing areas of severe, moderate and slight recreational development limitations is provided in Appendix F.

C. Vegetation

Peninsula State Park lies north of the tension zone in the area climaxed by northern mesic forest. Most of the original forest cover of the park was removed prior to 1900 and what remains today is primarily second growth timber. The vegetation of the park is shown in Appendix G. It has been roughly classified into the following 13 types recognizing that there is a great deal of intermixing between the types:

Northern Hardwoods. This type comprises some 932 acres and is almost all heavily mixed with white birch. Other dominant species include sugar maple, hemlock, yellow birch, American beech and basswood. Understory species include American hop hornbeam, Canada yew and chokecherry. Groundstory species include large leaf aster, baneberry, sweet cicely, dogbane, false Solomon's seal, trillium, violets and various ferns and sedges.

White Birch. This type covers about 1,317 acres, making it the most abundant type in the park. Its species composition is similar to that of northern hardwoods, but with a preponderance of white birch. In time, this type will evolve into a more pure northern hardwood type as the birches die out and are replaced by more shade tolerant species.

Aspen. About 134 acres are covered by this type which is dominated by quaking aspen. Other species present include big tooth aspen, chokeberry, mountain maple, black cherry, service berry, willow and ironwood. Such species as beaked hazel, raspberry, gray dogwood, barberry, bracken fern and various forbs are found in the groundstory. The aspen type is converting to northern hardwood.

Swamp Conifer. This type is found on poorly drained sites and comprises about 209 acres in total. It is generally mixed with swamp hardwoods. Primary tree species include black spruce and white cedar, white spruce, American elm, balsam fir, quaking aspen and balm of Gilead. Understory species include common juniper, grey dogwood, tag alder, willow ninebark and Canada yew and redosier dogwood. Groundstory species include a variety of forbs ranging from cattail in the most wet areas to such species as aster spp. and bittersweet in the less wet areas.

Swamp Hardwoods. Comprising some 31 acres, this type is similar to the swamp conifer type, but is dominated by hardwoods rather than conifers. Typically, these stands were dominated by American elm, but now the elms have been eliminated by Dutch Elm Disease.

White Pine. About 209 acres are in white pine. Some of the stands are mixed with white cedar and one is mixed with red pine in a plantation. Many of the white pine are over 15 inches dbh and add much to the beauty of the park. Understory species typically include staghorn sumac, raspberry, serviceberry, grey dogwood, chokecherry, rose and witch hazel. Groundstory species include baneberry, dogbane, aster, violet, poison ivy, bracken fern and sedges.

Red Pine. All of the 59 acres of red pine in the park are in plantations, most of which are about 60 years old. Their limited understory include baneberry, viola spp., large leaf aster, dogbane, sweet cicely, meadow rue and chokecherry.

Fir-Spruce. There is only one fir-spruce stand in the park. Comprising about three acres, it is dominated by balsam fir. White spruce, white cedar and hemlock are also present. Understory species include black cherry, chokecherry, common juniper and rubus. Groundstory species include Labrador tea, baneberry, large leaf aster, bracken fern, field horsetail and sedges.

Cedar. White cedar stands are characteristic of Door County. They are found primarily along the shoreline of the park. About 94 acres are cedar dominated. There is virtually no understory associated with white cedar stands.

Upland Brush. About 79 acres of the park are now in upland brush. This type is generally in areas that have been disturbed and will eventually convert to aspen, white birch and northern hardwood type. Typical species include chokecherry, serviceberry, common juniper, staghorn sumac, goldenrod, milkweed, blackberry, aster, rose, yarrow, sweet clover and other forbs and grasses associated with dry, open sites.

Lowland Brush. Totalling only about 10 acres, this type occurs on poorly drained sites. Typical species include willow, red osier dogwood, tag alder, balm of Gilead, cattail, aster, Labiatae, wild grape, ninebark, grasses and sedges.

Grass. The areas classified as grass are generally abandoned farm fields. Comprising about 216 acres, typical species include a wide variety of grasses, goldenrod, milkweed, sweet clover, yarrow, dock, alfalfa, aster, Queen Anne's Lace and Mullein. Most of the species tend to be aliens. These sites will eventually convert to upland brush as shrub invasion progresses and eventually to aspen or white birch and northern hardwood.

Muskeg. About 72 acres are in muskeg or wet marsh. Typical species include willow, cattail, giant reed, smartweed, grasses and sedges.

Aquatic Vegetation. Very few aquatic plants are found in or along Green Bay at the park due to the steep, rocky shoreline in most of the park. The only significant stands of aquatics are rushes and cattails in the cove south of Weborg Point. The aquatic plant communities of both Weborg Marsh and Fish Creek are typical of those found in shallow, eutrophic waters. No aquatic plants were found within the cedar swamp.

Endangered or Threatened Plant Species. Dwarf Lake Iris (*Iris lacustris*) is a threatened species present in several areas of the park. Pine-Drops (*Pterospora andromeda*) is an endangered species. It was found at Welcker's Point in the late 1930's and may still be present at the park.

D. Fishery

Three areas of the park -- Green Bay, Weborg Marsh and Fish Creek -- are important to fisheries. Perch and smallmouth bass make up the bulk of the fishery in Green Bay and populations of both are good along the Door County shoreline. Young-of-the-year perch and smallmouth bass were found in seine surveys at Nicolet Bay and the shoreline in the cove in front of Weborg Marsh.

Weborg Marsh is used for spawning by northern pike and perch. Along with Fish Creek, this area is one of the few good northern pike spawning areas along the bay side of Door County. These areas are also used as spawning grounds by carp and bullheads.

For additional fishery data see the lists in Appendix H.

E. Wildlife

Wildlife within the park includes all the species common to the northern hardwoods type of habitat. Some examples of the type of wildlife that are found within the park boundary are white-tailed deer, raccoon, fox, skunk, grey squirrels, red squirrels, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, small rodents such as mice, voles, hawks and owls, shorebirds and numerous songbirds. A more complete listing with six endangered or threatened species noted is found in Appendix I.

The park area experiences periodic population fluctuations in skunks and raccoons. Currently the skunk population is quite high and causes some problem with campers. It is anticipated that the population will decline in the next few years, as it has in the past.

F. Water Resources

Green Bay

Peninsula State Park is a peninsula in Green Bay, a bay of Lake Michigan. The park has about seven miles of Green Bay shoreline and varies from limestone bluffs to gravel and sand beaches to marsh.

Green Bay is subject to both short-term and long-term fluctuations in water levels. The level of modern Lake Michigan has fluctuated from a recorded high of 582.0 feet above sea level in June, 1866, to a recorded low of 575.4 feet above sea level in March, 1964, with the low water datum established at 576.8 feet above sea level. Currently, the lake has ranged from 578.4 to 580.6. This indicates that Lake Michigan levels are currently higher than historic normal levels. These long-term fluctuations result from variations in precipitation and runoff within the drainage basin. Normal annual fluctuations occur with high levels generally during July and August and low levels during February and March.

Fish Creek

Fish Creek is a small, low gradient, intermittent stream which originates in swampland and flows into Green Bay at Fish Creek. The stream forms the extreme southwest boundary of the park for a distance of about 1,000 feet. The stream has a silt over sand bottom. It may be subjected to some organic pollution from the Village of Fish Creek. Water depths vary greatly due to the Green Bay seiche and wind direction. In this area, Fish Creek is an estuary on Green Bay.

G. Wetlands

There are two principal wetlands in the park.

Weborg Marsh is a ten-acre spring-fed marsh along Shore Road in the southwest corner of the park. This area has a muck bottom and abundant aquatic vegetation. Two outlets to Green Bay under Shore Road provide water interchange with Green Bay and varying water depths in the marsh due to seiche and wind direction.

Cedar Swamp is located south of the sewage lagoon near Tension Bay. Vegetation at edge of cedar swamp closest to the sewage lagoon takes up nutrients discharged from the sewage lagoon. Some standing water remains in the swamp year round.

H. Existing Recreational Development (See Appendix B)

There are four family campgrounds in the park, totaling 466 units. In 1979, 161,025 camper days were recorded, making Peninsula the second most heavily used State park for camping.

Park Use Characteristics

	<u>Peninsula</u>	<u>State Park Average</u>
Resident Campers	62%	48%
Nonresident Campers	38%	52%
Tent Campers	48%	43%
Wheeled Campers	52%	57%
Enter on Holiday or Weekend	54%	55%
Average Persons/Party	3.5	3.8
Average Days Camped	.9	1.5

1. Nicolet Bay Campground is the largest of the four campgrounds. Situated on Nicolet Bay, the campground is divided into two camping areas, separated by the Nicolet Bay Day Use Area. The northern portion of the campground is laid out on a single two-way paved road, with gravel camping spurs directly off the road. A small boat launching ramp is also located off the campground road. There are presently 45 sites in the northern portion. The larger southern portion has 146 units and is laid out on a series of two-way paved loops with gravel spurs. The campground is mostly wooded, but the southeast one-fourth is open and slowly coming up to brush.

The two portions of the campground combined have a total of 189 sites and occupy approximately 49 acres, giving the campground a unit density of 3.90 sites per acre.

The campground has four modern flush toilet buildings, two of which have showers and laundry facilities. Sewage from the flush toilet buildings is pumped to the park's sewage treatment lagoon. Pit toilets are also provided. A water distribution system is supplied by a separate well and electric pump.

2. Tension Bay Campground is located southeast of Tension Bay. The campground is divided by two two-way roads with a series of one-way loops branching off from them. All the roads are paved and the spurs are graveled. A small boat launching area is located near the edge of the campground. Most of the campground is in an old field that is supporting pioneer species. Part of it is in a wooded area and part in a pine plantation. There are 184 campsites at Tension Bay, occupying about 42 acres, giving it a unit density of 4.27 units per acre. Eighty-two of the sites are electrified.

The campground has five modern flush toilet buildings, two of which have shower and laundry facilities. The sewage from the flush toilet buildings is pumped to the park's sewage treatment lagoon. Pit toilets are also provided. The water distribution system is supplied by a separate well and electric pump.

A map of Tension Bay Campground is in Appendix J.

3. Welcker's Point Campground is located on the northernmost point of the Peninsula. The campground consists of three one-way loops plus a small cul-de-sac. The roads are paved and the spurs are graveled. The campground is entirely wooded. There are 80 units occupying about 37 acres, giving it a unit density of 2.24 units per acre. Six of the sites are electrified.

The campground has three modern flush toilet buildings, one of which has shower and laundry facilities. The sewage from the flush toilet buildings is pumped to the park's sewage treatment lagoon. The water distribution system is supplied by a separate well and electric pump.

A map of Welcker's Point Campground is in Appendix J.

4. Weborg Point Campground is the smallest of the campgrounds. It consists of a single paved loop off of Shore Road on Weborg Point. The site is open and maintained in grass cover with some shrubs and a few trees between the sites. There are 13 units occupying about 3.5 acres, giving the campground a unit density of 3.71 sites per acre. All but one of the sites are electrified and four of them have sewer and water hookups.

The campground has a combination flush toilet and shelter building with laundry facilities. The sewage is treated by a separate drainage field. The water distribution system is supplied by a separate well and pump.

A map of Weborg Point Campground is in Appendix J.

5. Peninsula has one group campground with a capacity of about 50 campers. The campground is in a primarily open area east of the Nicolet Bay Campground. Pit toilets and water are provided, along with a 15-car parking area.
6. There are 6 picnic areas in the park with a total of 10 acres. There are 81 picnic tables at these sites. The park entrance area provides 4 tables in conjunction with the 42-car overflow parking lot. Pit toilets are provided there. Weborg Point has a small day-use area with 4 tables, 5 parking stalls, a shelter and toilets. Nelson Point has 6 tables and 16 parking stalls. Welcker's Point provides 9 tables and 18 parking stalls, a shelter and pit toilets. Nicolet Bay has 43 tables and 50-car parking lot which also provides parking for the swimming beach. There is no picnic shelter there, but toilet facilities are provided at the bathhouse. The Eagle Terrace picnic area has 19 tables and 24 parking stalls. Toilets and water are available. Located adjacent to the picnic area is the 75-foot high Eagle Bluff observation tower.
7. Peninsula has a total of 53.3 miles of trail, including one nature trail, a 5.5-mile bike trail and 15.5 miles of cross-country ski trails. Snowmobilers use the golf course and unplowed roads.
8. There is one swimming beach in the park at Nicolet Bay. There is 300 feet of beach, 150 parking stalls, a bathhouse and associated day-use area.
9. Peninsula is the only State park to provide a golf course. The 18-hole course is a par 71, 6,295 yard course. Operation of the course in 1978 brought in revenues of \$117,000, none of which is available for maintenance. The golf course has a clubhouse with concession and a 50-car parking lot.
10. Other recreational facilities include the Eagle Lighthouse which is now a museum with guided tours conducted by the Door County Historical Society. A nature center is located at the juncture of Bluff and Shore Roads. Seasonal naturalists conduct hikes and evening programs. An amphitheater is located between Nicolet Bay and Tension Bay Campgrounds. Naturalists' programs are conducted there during summer months and for the last nine seasons the "Heritage Ensemble" has presented musical versions of Wisconsin's history and heritage in the amphitheater. A single tennis court is located off Shore Road near the junction with Mengelberg Lane.
11. There are boat ramps at Tension Bay and Nicolet Bay. There was a dock at Nicolet Bay until 1979, when it was severely damaged by ice.

Park visitors who enjoy shore fishing tend to concentrate on piers. The dock at Weborg Point is without a doubt the most popular shore fishing area in the park. Smallmouth bass, yellow perch and bullheads comprise the bulk of the catch during July, August and September. In spring and autumn, both brown and rainbow trout frequent these waters and a good number of these fish are caught from the park dock. Northern pike are common residents of this area, but are not caught as regularly as some of the other species. Ice fishing for trout is also popular in the dock area.

RECREATION FACILITIES

<u>Family Campgrounds</u>	<u># Units</u>	<u># w/Electricity</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Nicolet Bay	189		49
Tennison Bay	184	83	42
Welcher's Point	80	6	37
Weborg Point	13	12	3.5
TOTAL	466	102	131.5

<u>Group Campground</u>		
Nicolet Bay	50	4.5

<u>Trails</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Self-guiding nature trail	.3
Hiking	15
Snowmobiling*	17
Bicycling	5.5
Cross-country skiing	15.5
TOTAL OF ALL TRAILS	53.3

<u>Picnic Areas</u>	<u>Number of Tables</u>	<u>Number of Grills</u>	<u>Number of Shelters</u>	<u>Number of Pkg. Stalls</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Park entrance area	4	2		42	1.2
Weborg	4	2	1	5	1.0
Nelson Point	6	4		16	.8
Welcher's	9	3	1	18	2.0
Nicolet	43	27		50	8.0
Eagle Terrace	19	3		24	5.0
TOTAL	75	41	2	155	18

<u>Swimming Beach</u>	<u>Number of Parking Stalls</u>	<u>Linear Feet</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Nicolet Bay	150	300	.5

<u>Boat Landings</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Cars With Trailers</u>
	2	40	25

Other

- Lighthouse
- 18-hole golf course
- Observation tower
- Amphitheater
- Nature center
- Tennis court
- Concession stand

* Snowmobilers use the golf course, unplowed roads and the bicycle trail.

I. Historical and Archaeological Features

The Door Peninsula is rich in Indian history. Potawatomi, Winnebago, Iroquois and Huron tribes all inhabited the area in its early history. There is one known encampment site within the park. No doubt the area was heavily used by the Indians. Archaeological investigations are being conducted at nearby Rock Island State Park which will help sort out the prehistory of the area. Historic points of interest within the park include the following:

1. Nicolet Bay. When Jean Nicolet in 1634 set out from Quebec to negotiate a treaty with the Winnebago Indians whose principal village was at Red Banks, he became the first known white man to visit the present State of Wisconsin. In the narrative of this journey, he says that he stopped for a week at a place two days journey from the Winnebago Village in order to send messengers to apprise these Indians of his coming. According to Indian tradition, this stopping place was at Nicolet Bay in the northern part of Peninsula State Park. This tradition agrees with the local circumstances for Nicolet Bay is just two days canoe journey from Red Banks.

2. Totem Pole. On the golf course, one mile from Ephraim, stands a totem pole raised by white men in honor of the Indians. It is a pine pole, 30 feet high and about two feet in diameter at the base. The entire pole is richly carved and painted. The decorations consist of seven historical panels encircling the pole, presenting scenes from the life of the Potawatomi Indians. The pole also shows numerous other symbolic Indian designs characteristic of Indian art work. The pole was designed by H. R. Holand and Adlai S. Hardin and carved by Hardin. This monument is a gift to the State by local residents, the Ephraim Foundation and the Door County Historical Society.
3. Chief Kahquados Grave. Near the totem pole is the grave of Simon Onanguisse Kahquados, the last of a long line of Potawatomi chiefs who ruled over the Door County Peninsula for several centuries. At the head of the grave stands a huge limestone boulder weighing 17,000 pounds which carries a lengthy inscription on a bronze tablet. Here, attended by many Indians coming from their homes in Forest County 200 miles away, the old chief was laid to rest May 30, 1931, in the presence of about 10,000 spectators.
4. Monument to Ole Larson. Located in the Nicolet Bay Campground is a stone monument commemorating Ole Larson, the first farmer in Door County. The marker is located at the approximate site of his homestead.
5. Eagle Lighthouse. This lighthouse was established in 1868. Today, the light is automated and tours are conducted during the summer months by the Door County Historical Society who have restored the structure to its 1890's condition. Admission fees are charged. The structure and 1.02 acres of land around it are owned by the Federal Government.

J. Land Use

In accordance with the Department's Land Use Classification System, lands within the park are classified as: Public Use Natural Area (N), Intensive Recreation Development (IRD), Extensive Recreation Area (ERA), Scientific Areas (S), Historical and Archaeological Areas (HA) and Administrative and Support Facilities (A01, A08). The location of these areas is illustrated on the map in Appendix L.

Public Use Natural Area accounts for about 2,892 acres of park lands. These are relatively undisturbed natural areas that can be enjoyed by the public for general nature study, education and aesthetic appreciation, under certain restrictions, without threat of destruction. Habitat manipulations designed to benefit particular species of plants, fish or wildlife, with one exception, are generally prohibited. That exception will be the utilization of forestry practices to facilitate the conversion of existing conifer plantations to indigenous vegetative communities. Under no circumstances will new plantations be established. Sanitation harvest of trees along existing trails and roads should also be permitted when public safety is in question. Existing roads and trails should be permitted; however, no new roads or trails will be established. Inasmuch as snowmobilers have in the past been allowed restricted passage through the area using the existing roads and trails, this practice will be tolerated. However, no expansion of this use will be permitted in the Public Use Natural Area.

Three hundred eighty-five acres devoted to campgrounds, picnic areas, beaches, golf course, trails, tennis court, amphitheater, nature center and observation tower are designated as Intensive Recreation Development.

Approximately 350 acres are classified as Extensive Recreation Area. As well as protecting some of the scenic attributes of the park, ERA also serves as buffer between the intensively developed recreation areas and natural or scientific areas.

Two Scientific Areas totaling 133 acres are designated as sites 12 and 13. Site #12 is called the Peninsula Beech-Maple Forest Scientific Area and is 80 acres in size. Site #13 is 53 acres in size and called the White Cedar Forest Scientific Area.

Two areas totaling about half of an acre are classified as Historic/Archaeological. The first area is the grave site of Chief Kahquados. Near the grave site stands a 30-foot high totem pole raised in honor of the Indians. The Eagle Lighthouse, constructed in 1868, is the second historic site. It was restored by the Door County Historical Society which conducts public tours during the summer. Admission fees are charged. The Lighthouse and 1.02 acres of land are federally owned.

The Administrative area consists of a park entrance visitor station, office, park residence and shop/storage buildings. The support facility is a sewage oxidation pond located in the north area of the park. Total acreage would be about 25 acres.

III. Management Problems and Related Concerns

A. Multiple Park Access Points

There are now three major entrances to the park: Fish Creek, Ephraim and Highland Road. This condition does not allow efficient management of the park. It is impractical to monitor traffic or sales of admission stickers at all of these points.

B. Town Roads Inside the Park

Uncontrolled access creates some problems and inefficiencies. Maintenance must be coordinated so that all sections of road -- both park road and town road -- are kept in uniform good condition. Regulation enforcement is also difficult under this system. Speed limits can only be established by the Town Board.

C. Pressure for New Recreational Activities

From time to time, well-meaning, interested persons request that their favorite recreational activity be accommodated at Peninsula State Park. These requests are usually for more campsites, fewer campsites, swimming pools, horseback riding trails, wilderness camping, etc. Rather than address these ideas in this section, they will be taken up in a future section of this plan dealing with recreation supply, demand and need. These are not the only criteria applied when making design decisions, however. A set of approved planning guidelines already exists and will be presented later in this plan. These guidelines help set the precedents for decision making. Also considered are the ultimate effects of a given activity on the quality of the park and the environment.

D. Land Acquisition (See Appendix D)

There are a few parcels of land remaining to be acquired at Peninsula. These are made up primarily of small tracts. Two significant tracts along Highland Road remain in private hands. A new house has been built there recently, making future acquisition uncertain.

The combination gas station/antique shop at the park's Fish Creek entrance presents a poor prelude to entering the park. This property is within the current acquisition boundary.

E. Traffic Pattern and Flow Characteristics

Because of the concentrated nature of development at Peninsula and the numerous roads in the network, there are some areas that have chronic congestion problems. These include access drives to the campgrounds, beach, boat landings and other areas. Some of the use areas have more than one entrance from the same park road.

F. Nicolet Bay Area Drainage

The lawn at Nicolet Beach collects standing water in the early spring and during heavy rainfall. Apparently, the contour of the surface does not adequately drain away the accumulated water. This causes damage to the lawn by killing the grass and makes use impossible due to mud.

G. Shore Road Vista

In the past, the view from the road of Green Bay and the nearby islands was very pleasant. The dense growth of trees -- mainly white cedar -- is slowly, but surely, eliminating the view. There are only a few gaps left in the screen.

H. Management of the Conifer Plantations

There are several existing pine plantations in the park. These are generally in remote areas away from general view. Whatever the intent of these plantations was at the outset their future must be considered. These plantations are subject to disease and damage because of their monotypic makeup. An added problem is public acceptance of forestry practices taking place in the park.

I. Sewage Lagoon

The flush toilets and showers at the Peninsula campgrounds, except Weborg, are served by a system of sewer lines and a 2.4 acre oxidation pond. The treatment consists of pumping the wastes to the pond where stabilization takes place. On a seasonal basis (spring and fall), the stabilized effluent is released into an adjacent land-locked marsh. During the late fall, winter and early spring, the system is virtually unused.

The system is continually tested for compliance with the permit under which it operates. Occasionally, the system is criticized as polluting or ineffective by persons not fully understanding its operation or the fact that it is under a permit and is monitored for compliance.

J. Management of Horseshoe Island

There has never been any specific management policy for Horseshoe (Eagle) Island other than the judgment of the park superintendent. Certain unauthorized uses have been observed over the years and litter is often a problem. It is a popular, sheltered area to moor boats.

K. Degree of Development of Boat Launch Areas

Peninsula has two boat launching ramps -- one at Tension Bay and one at Nicolet Bay. These facilities handle fishing boats, small sailboats and small runabouts. Occasionally, attempts are made to launch larger power boats or fixed-keel sailboats. Sometimes, the owners have difficulty or find it impossible to launch due to the size of their craft. Several complaints are received each year requesting better (deeper) landings.

L. The Energy Crisis

This contemporary situation is rapidly evolving and the exact outcome relative to Peninsula and the other State parks is difficult to predict. There are some obvious areas of concern to this plan, however:

1. Transportation may change either in mode or quantity -- or both. At this time, we cannot predict whether there will be less use of Peninsula due to fuel shortages or rationing, or whether there may be increased use of Peninsula by persons unable to take vacations in other states or regions. Both alternatives have potential impacts that must be dealt with when the need arises.

2. During the duration of this plan (10 years), there may be a shift in style of camping. If the large travel trailers and motor-homes fall from popularity, and if small trailers and tents resume wider use, then some physical changes in the campgrounds may be appropriate.

3. Park Energy Use

Fossil fuels such as oil and gas (both propane and methane) will probably become increasingly scarce and costly. There are several units in the park that consume these fuels. The consumption of electric power will also become more costly. There are many small uses of electricity and a few large ones in the park.

M. Conversion of Weborg Point Campground

The 13 campsites at Weborg Point are used almost exclusively by large travel trailers and motor homes. There are four sites with full hook-ups. The comparatively high level of maintenance required by this small campground and the uncertain future of this style of camping are cause for a reexamination the highest and best use of the site.

N. Hunting at Peninsula

By Statute 29.57(4), State parks are classed as wildlife refuges. Therefore, hunting and trapping are prohibited. However, the Natural Resources Board may allow deer hunting as it deems appropriate. Traditionally, deer hunting has been allowed in the parks where a problem of overbrowsing or starvation has existed. Some exceptions are noted, mainly where a historical precedent exists. Trapping and small game hunting are still precluded by law -- the Natural Resources Board cannot allow it for any reason.

Recently, there has been an increasingly vocalized desire by the public to open the parks of Wisconsin, including Peninsula, to both deer and small game hunting.

O. Condition of the Golf Course

The Peninsula Golf Course has been termed by many people as one of the most beautiful in the nation. Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been a significant amount of criticism -- mainly directed at the condition of the greens and fairways. These conditions resulted from equipment shortages and an inadequate irrigation system.

P. Bicycle Traffic

Many people love to ride bikes in and through the park. Recently, the competition for road space between bikers and auto drivers has increased.

IV. Recreation Needs and Other Factors That Influence Planning

A. Approved Planning Guidelines

The following statements are taken from Peninsula State Park Planning Guidelines, approved for this plan by the Division of Resource Management in 1977:

"The Master Plan should concentrate on the protection of the natural and scenic resources and for compatible forms of recreation and education."

"No increase in intensive use capacity should be planned. Emphasis should be on upgrading present facilities with a rustic motif. A one-entrance park with abandonment of some of the existing roads should be investigated."

A facsimile of the complete document appears in Appendix K of the Master Plan.

B. Recreation Demand and Needs

Peninsula is located in Planning Region 8 consisting of Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties. The 1977 Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan shows that there are needs for added capacity in some categories and that other recreation demands are being adequately met.

According to the WORP, there is an adequate supply of swimming facilities in Region 8 to last through 1995. The beach at Nicolet Bay in the park is a very popular area during warm weather and, no doubt, could be expanded to hold more people.

Camping, on the other hand, seems to be deficient with a higher demand than supply. Developed camping supplies would need doubling to accommodate the existing demand. Wilderness or primitive camping has a demand eight times greater than the supply in Region 8. With this knowledge at hand, the decisions for the future of the park must be carefully made.

Picnicking needs for Region 8 are high through 1995. However, some of the picnic areas in the park are lightly used through the year.

Boating needs are also expressed for the region. Peninsula already has two small boat access points and the nearby coastal towns all have adequate marinas.

There are no bridle trails at Peninsula State Park. The WORP lists 33 miles of existing public horseback trail available in Planning Region 8 and an undetermined number of miles of private trail miles. Since there are a significant number of stables in Region 8 offering trail rides, this undetermined mileage figure may be sizeable. The projected need for the region in 1995 is 80 miles. Whether any of this need should be met at Peninsula should be considered very carefully, taking the resource, carrying capacity and the approved planning guidelines into consideration.

V. Concept Alternatives and Analyses

A. Alternatives

1. Total Preservation

With total preservation as the management theme, the entire property could be designated wilderness or scientific areas in accordance with the Natural Resources Board's Land Use Classification System. This would require the phasing out of all recreational development facilities including roads. Access would be by means of hiking designated trails and on small water craft capable of landing in sheltered bays. This action would significantly reduce park use and operational costs. In addition, it would provide the most complete form of protection of the natural resources of the park.

2. Limited Development

Limited development best describes the current management policy. It encompasses the philosophy of providing basic outdoor recreational opportunities for park visitors while providing a good measure of protection for the park's natural asset.

Most of the park could be managed as "Public Use Natural Area" in accordance with Natural Resources Board Land Use Classification System. This designation would limit development to existing developed areas or restrict future development to areas that would have minimal impact on the natural resources of the park.

Notable exceptions to the area designation would be the Peninsula State Park golf course and the Nicolet Bay Beach Area and the major campground areas at Tenneson, Nicolet Bay and Welcher's Point. These would be classed as "Intensive Recreation Areas".

3. Intensive Development

Intensive development of the park would involve further development of the Nicolet Bay Area to provide for large scale water-oriented recreation areas. Expansion of beach area, modernization or construction of additional service and day-use facility would be required to bring the area to its full potential. Marina facilities to accommodate both large and small recreational craft could be constructed north of beach area.

Expansion of campground could be done with increased service such as electrification of sites and recreational buildings similar to the type of services now provided in many recreational campgrounds under private management.

The park has the potential for development of winter sports areas that would include downhill skiing, tobogganing, ice rink and ski touring. Parking for 300-400 cars and accompanying lodge and food service facilities would be added.

The expansion of the golf course facilities and services would be included under intensive development alternative.

4. Status Quo Alternative

This alternative is similar to the "limited development" alternative in that no changes would be made and the unofficial theme of resource protection would continue. None of the major management problems would be addressed. Generally, the park would continue to operate as is for the next 10 years.

B. Analyses

1. The preservation alternative would involve the removal of existing facilities and elimination of town roads. This action would restrict park use to those walking, biking or traveling by boat to the park.

Operational costs would be limited to patrols, minor trail maintenance and signing. Backpacking type camping sites could be made available along with self-guided nature trails.

Park revenue would be greatly reduced to between 5 and 10 percent of current levels. In addition, the economy of both Fish Creek and Ephraim would be affected negatively because of reduced tourism by park visitors.

A fairly high degree of protection might be achieved. It does not seem plausible, in light of the one million plus visitors per year, that such a limitation on park use should be imposed.

2. Limited development would control the exploitation of the site and provide a good measure of protection for the natural resources of the park. This would be accomplished through the designation of sections of the park in accordance with Natural Resources Board's Land Use Classification System. The scientific area designation would provide complete protection from development, while the public use natural area area designation would limit development to existing areas.

The park would continue to accommodate one million plus visitor-days and provide for the protection of its natural resources.

3. Intensive development would require large capital investment as well as intensive management. Cost of operation would increase significantly. However, revenues would be expected to increase because of increased park use. The new development would be at the cost of some of the park's natural resources. Expansion of intensively developed areas would intrude into what are now undeveloped areas of the park.
4. A status quo concept would provide reasonable protection of the resources while continuing to allow compatible recreation. Any benefits would continue to originate from the values and judgments of the staff and administration. Past history has shown this to be adequate, however, there is no guarantee without a specific plan. Peninsula would not benefit from a Land Use Classification System or the NRB Wild Resources Policy. Management problems would have to be dealt with when they became crises, rather than solving them in a more organized budgeted fashion. Status Quo is an inferior concept for this park.

VI. Recommended Concept Alternative

The Master Planning Task Force recommends the limited development alternative. That would provide recreational opportunity for the general public and protection of the park resources. It also satisfies the Planning Guidelines by considering only those recreation activities that are compatible with resource preservation.

All existing facilities and recreation features should remain in the park unless specifically deleted by this plan.

VII. Goal and Objectives

A. Property Goal. To protect the natural and scenic resources of the park and to provide compatible forms of outdoor recreation and education.

B. Property Objectives

- 1. To provide the following recreational opportunities to accommodate an expected 1.2 million visitor-days annually.

Property Objective #1
Distribution of
Ultimate User Days

Family Camping	328,000
Picnicking	225,000
Group Camping	10,000
Hiking	50,000
Trail Bicycling	20,000
Road Bicycling	10,000
Ski-Touring	12,000
Snowmobiling	10,000
Swimming	125,000
Golf	55,000
Naturalist Programs	25,000
Pleasure Driving	55,000
Eagle Tower	125,000
Boat Launchings	25,000
Passive Uses	125,000

Total 1,200,000 User Days

- 2. To operate the park as a major destination type -- multiple recreational park in the Peninsula group of State parks.
- 3. To provide the administrative measures and facilities development necessary to protect the resource and to accommodate park visitors.
- 4. To establish appropriate uniform land use classifications including Scientific Areas within the park in accordance with Natural Resources Board Land Use Classification System.
- 5. To provide solutions for as many of the stated management problems and related concerns possible.
- 6. Provide supportive habitat for endangered and threatened wild animals and wild plants.

VIII. Actions to Accomplish Goals and Objectives

These are specific proposals for action.

A. Land Acquisition (See map in Appendix D)

- 1. The present park boundary was approved by the Natural Resources Board in July 1970. 3,762.85 acres are State-owned and 33.22 acres of private lands remain to be purchased at an estimated cost of \$200,000 (1980 dollars). One of these private parcels is the gas station property at the Fish Creek entrance to the park.

It is proposed that one 10.73 acre parcel of State-owned land outside the boundary be sold or used for trading purposes. The elimination of this parcel will result in a final acreage goal of 3,785.34 acres.

2. Continue to seek abandonment of all town roads within the park. This does not necessarily mean that all of these roads would be closed or obliterated, but that they would all be controlled and managed by the park.

B. Management and Policy

1. Continue managing Peninsula as a multiple entrance park for the 10-year life of this plan. If Highland Road can be acquired, close it as an access point -- but allow the private landowner located nearby access to his property.
2. During the plan's effective timespan, no new major recreation modes will be initiated. This means no major expansion of existing facilities unless a specific compelling need can be proven. In case expansion becomes necessary, an addendum to the Master Plan should be prepared and approved by both the Madison office and the Lake Michigan District.

Horseback riding as a new recreation mode has been suggested from time to time. As stated in the Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan, the popularity of horseback riding is expected to increase in the future. At the time WORP was written, over half of the stated trail mileage need for the present was provided by public agencies. It was not ascertained in WORP how many miles of privately managed bridle trails existed, however, there are a number of riding stables in the region featuring trail rides.

Aside from the commitment to not develop any new recreation modes in the park, there are some practical reasons for not allowing horses. The first situation to be avoided is conflict between horses and motor vehicles and other recreationists. To do this, special designated trails distant from the roads and use areas would have to be developed. Special parking areas would be required, since nearly all horses are transported in large trailers. A staging and grooming area is needed with a water supply for the animals.

There are many areas in the park where the soils and slopes combine to limit the development of trails for horse use. By constructing such a developed facility as would be needed, we would create additional demand for expansion. The concentrated use of such a trail would soon cause erosion problems wherever slopes exceed 5%. All trailered horses would be transported on the park roads causing additional traffic congestion in an area already chronically crowded with auto traffic, travel trailers and motor homes. In short, neither the facilities nor the resources at Peninsula can withstand the additional pressure that would come from operating a public horseback riding facility. Therefore, for the 10-year duration of this Master Plan, there will be no horseback riding facility developed.

3. In areas classified as public use natural area, timber harvesting is generally prohibited. However, in order to facilitate the conversion of the park's existing conifer plantations to indigenous vegetative communities, a variance in the management guidelines will be carried out. Forestry practice would be used to promote vigorous growth free of disease and insect infestation. Methods of harvest prescribed by the county forester will be employed to accomplish this goal. Thinning and clear-cutting (where appropriate) and selective cutting will be used. Where applicable -- mainly in areas of high use or visibility -- the principles found in the Forest Aesthetics Management Handbook will be employed. As the plantations mature and reach the end of their cycle, they will be converted to the existing northern hardwood association of plants.

Maturity of the plantations will probably not occur within the 10-year plan period. However, the progress should be monitored by the county forester and necessary measures to insure the health and vigor of the stands should be implemented.

No new plantations will be established. The general vegetative management of the park should be restricted to cutting trees for safety and aesthetic reasons. This means that dead, diseased or severely damaged trees along trails, roads or in use areas would be removed. An example of aesthetic management is the removal of trees that have grown large and are now blocking important views or vistas. This will be discussed under development actions.

A park nursery area should be established to provide growth and storage beds for trees and shrubs from the State nurseries. These materials are later transplanted to sites in the park where they are needed.

4. The sewage treatment system (lagoon or oxidation pond) should be monitored closely to verify that it continues to operate within the limits of its permit. This is a preventive measure only, since the system is operating up to standards at present. This operation should be satisfactory as long as no extension or additional load is placed on it.

5. Hunting in State parks has long been a subject of discussion. As stated previously in this plan, there are legal and procedural factors involved. Without a change in State park status or in the statutes, small game hunting and trapping cannot be allowed. Deer hunting can be permitted by the Natural Resources Board. This should be thoroughly researched before any changes are made.
6. Energy. The most difficult subject to predict and cope with is the future availability of all energy sources and their impact on our recreation system from both utilization and an operations standpoint. Specific measures that can be taken in the park operations field are installing of alternate energy systems whenever possible. For example, using wood-burning stoves to heat certain buildings and the installation of multi-fuel furnaces in others when replacement time occurs. Insulation should be inspected and upgraded wherever possible and all air leaks sealed.

Light utility vehicles should be substituted for standard size pickup trucks where possible.

Recreation changes should be monitored closely and dealt with as the new trends (if any) develop. Some anticipated impacts on Peninsula might be: an increase or decrease in general use, a lengthening of the camping season in response to low summer fuel supplies, a shift to some system of mass transit with Door County or the park as a destination, longer individual tenancies at campsites, etc. If a clear-cut need to modify policy or procedures becomes evident, appropriate steps should be taken. If the need to develop, remove or modify facilities in the park (for instance a need for charter bus parking) arises, plans should be formulated jointly by the field, district and Madison office. It would not be prudent to avoid making these decisions until the next master plan review in 1990. Instead, a master plan addendum, approved by the Division Administrator, should be prepared.

7. Fish management in the park will be on a cooperation basis with the management program for the waters of Green Bay. The two important spawning areas at Weborg Marsh and Fish Creek will continue to be protected under State park status reinforced by the natural area designation. Fish management techniques will not be initiated by the park staff, but may be implemented in cooperation with the area fish manager.
8. The park will not be managed for game species (except as noted in the previous discussion of deer hunting). Recognition should be given to the importance of maintaining a diversified fauna for educational and aesthetic value. It is recommended that as funds permit, a biological inventory of all animal and plant species in the park should be conducted.

Under current statutes, small game hunting and trapping are prohibited in State parks. Unless the statutes are modified, no change in this can take place.

9. The park naturalist program is an important facet of the total park operation. Presently, one LTE naturalist handles this program during the summer months. The possibility exists for hiring a CETA employe to assume the duties of a full time naturalist, plus other duties. The naturalist duties consist of conducting guided hikes, evening programs and, on some occasions, special programs. Existing park facilities, which are an integral part of the naturalist program, are the nature center, Nicolet amphitheater and 1/2-mile White Cedar nature trail.

C. Development

If, during any development phase, any endangered or threatened species are discovered work will cease until an evaluation of significance can be made.

1. Study ways to simplify the traffic flow within the park, especially near the intensive use areas. Prepare site plans and coordinate with the Bureau of Engineering.
2. Initiate a project to regrade the lawn and sunning area between the parking lot and concession building at the Nicolet beach use area. A site plan should be prepared providing for positive surface drainage. This will permanently solve the problem of standing water.
3. Restore and improve the important views and vistas in the park by selective removal of vegetation. This includes Shore Road as well as certain other roads and overlook areas. The park planner and the manager should plan this activity and monitor future needs occasionally.

4. Upgrade and maintain all safety barriers at overlook areas. Monitor all sites annually and repair or replace when necessary. Develop a plan for informing the public of the need to act prudently in these areas, i.e., signs, article in the "Park Visitor", notice on bulletin boards, etc.
5. Conduct an annual inspection and repair project at the Eagle Bluff Observation Tower. All stairs, railings and floors should be included.
6. Weborg Point Campground should be kept as a camping area during the plan life unless circumstances change significantly. No new facilities should be built except on a replacement basis.
7. Repair and reconstruct the two boat landings to acceptable standards. Plans should be drawn that will produce a facility able to accommodate small to medium-sized fishing boats and retractable centerboard sailboats. Due to the nearby availability of several full service marinas, there should be no attempt to expand or enlarge the Peninsula landings to handle large craft.
8. A program of repair and upgrading has been undertaken for the golf course. This should be continued. Special attention should be given to the overhaul or replacement of the irrigation system.
9. Since Peninsula will be operated as a multiple entrance park for the plan duration of 10 years, a new location for the park office will not be necessary. This does not preclude the repair or replacement of the existing structure. If, indeed, the structure is either destroyed by disaster, or if it can be shown to be critically inadequate, a new one could be built on the existing site. This would effectively commit us permanently to that site in order to amortize the new investment.
10. The 5.5-mile Sunset Trail gives a safe access for bikers from the park office to many of the developed areas of the park. Conflicts between bikers and auto traffic could be eliminated by upgrading and expanding the bike trails in the park. Plans and project proposals should be submitted for resurfacing the existing trail and constructing new sections. Bicycles should then be prohibited from operating on park roads where the bike trail parallels them.
11. Develop a nursery to provide a holding and growth area for trees and shrubs obtained from the State nurseries. Some of the stock can be grown to a more useable size and then transplanted to sites in the park. It would also be possible to cultivate indigenous species collected in the park for later use.

IX. Cost and Phasing

A. General Costs

1. Land acquisition costs will be based on market value at the time of appraisal. It would be unfair to prejudice the negotiations with an estimate of cost in this plan since there are so few private parcels remaining in the park.
2. Management actions for Peninsula do not directly incur any new costs. There will be few secondary effects on cost since no new recreation modes or expansions are proposed. Management of the pine plantations will result in income over the years resulting from the harvest of trees. Also, the utilization of dead or damaged trees for firewood will also continue to benefit the park.
3. Development Costs

Note: The costs listed here are very preliminary estimates and are not intended for use in biennial budget planning. Each project should be researched and an actual cost estimate made at the time of planning. Furthermore, the cost figures reflect the present (1979) and not the future economic conditions. Projections should be made for inflation should work be delayed very far into the plan period.

Access road redevelopment @ \$25/foot x 2,500' -	\$ 6,250
Nicolet lawn regrading \$1,000/acre x 4 acres -	\$ 4,000
Clearing of vistas 5 days labor at \$200/day -	\$ 1,000
Safety barriers labor and materials -	\$ 10,000
Boat landings -	
Nicolet (incl. groin) -	\$ 50,000
Tennison -	\$ 10,000
Golf course upgrading -	\$ 65,000
Bike trail resurfacing 5.5 miles -	\$ 7,000
Bike trail extension 4 miles -	\$ 12,500
Total Estimate -	\$ 165,750

B. Phasing

1. Land acquisition should be a continuous process. Landowners should be contacted periodically to keep communications open and ascertain whether they are yet interested in selling to the State for the park.
2. Management actions will be in force immediately upon approval of this plan by the Natural Resources Board. The proposal to explore the feasibility or suitability of deer hunting in the park should begin in spring of 1980.
3. Development projects should be generally phased as follows:

Phase I

Nicolet Beach Lawn
Boat Landings at Nicolet and Tennison

Phase 2

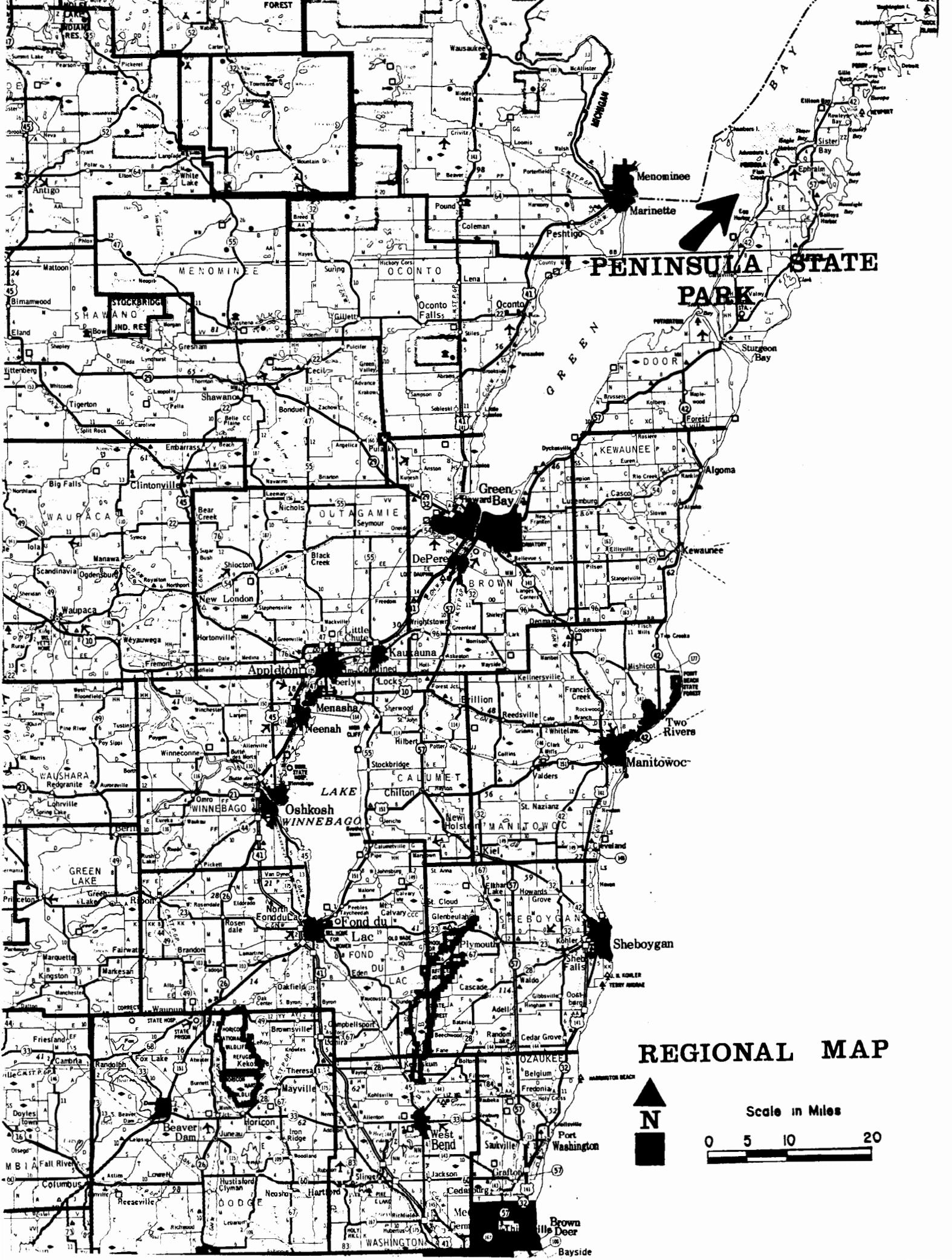
Roads
Bike Trail Resurfacing
Bike Trail Extension

Projects that should be phased on a continuing basis through a 10-year period are:

Vistas
Safety Barriers
Golf Course

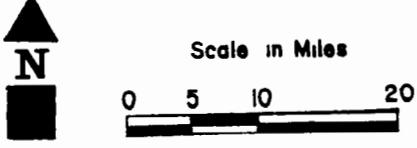
4. Provision for unscheduled development projects should be made. There are often projects that are generated through necessity that cannot be prescribed by a Master Plan. They could include replacement or remodeling of buildings, water systems, entrance markers and signs, etc. These should be proposed and discussed as a part of the biennial budget planning process along with the plan -- scheduled work.

Appendix A
Regional Map



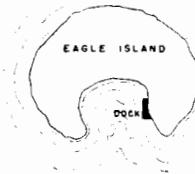
PENINSULA STATE PARK

REGIONAL MAP



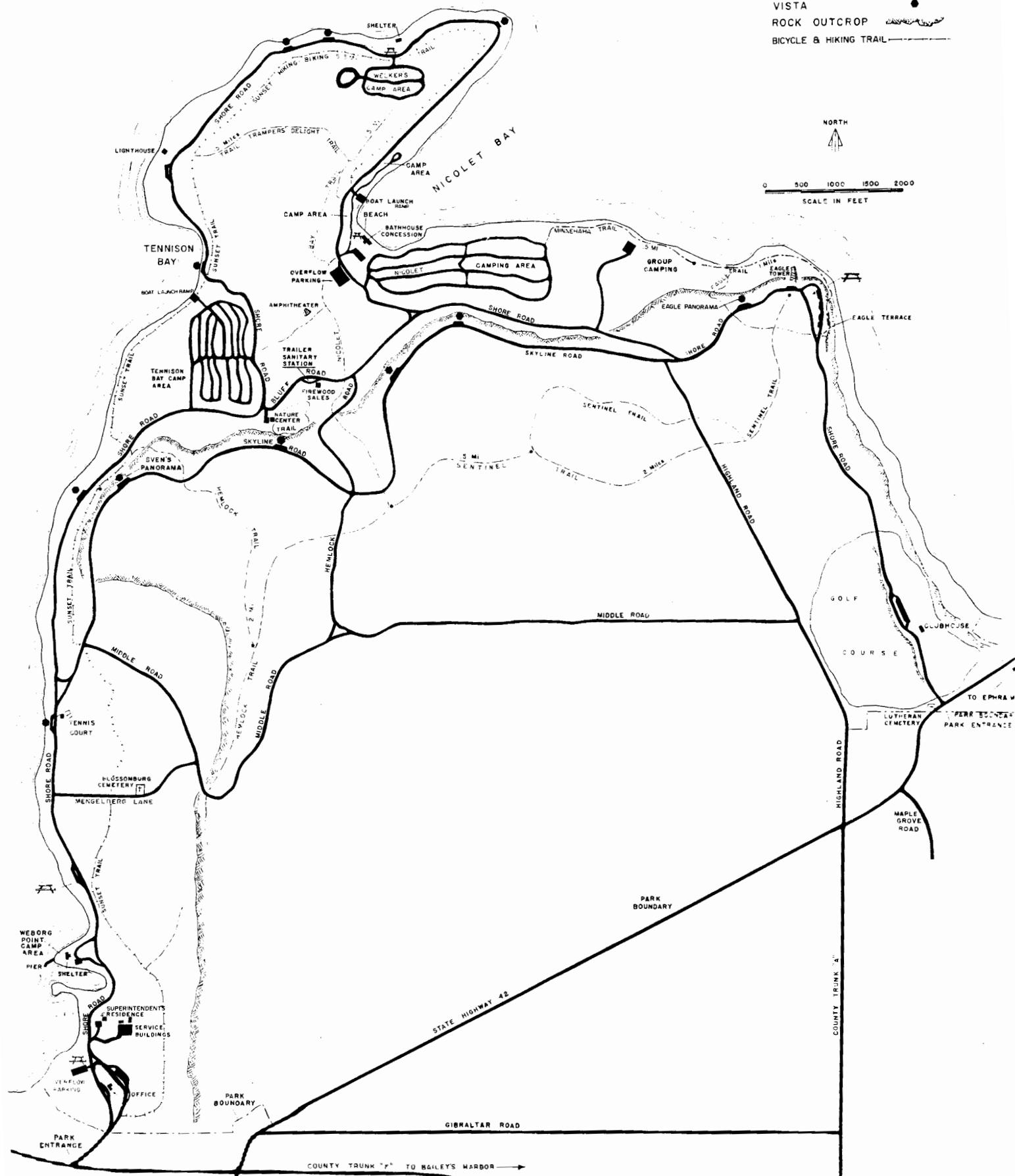
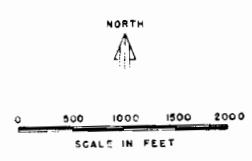
This regional map of Wisconsin displays county boundaries and names, including Forest, Marinette, Oconto, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, and Ozaukee. Major cities such as Marinette, De Pere, Kaukauna, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, and Port Washington are marked. The map also shows Lake Michigan to the northwest and Lake Koshong in the central region. A large black arrow points to the location of Peninsula State Park in Marinette County. A scale bar in miles (0, 5, 10, 20) and a north arrow are provided in the bottom right corner.

Appendix B
Park Facilities Map



LEGEND

- PICNIC AREA
- BEACH
- HIKING TRAIL
- VISTA
- ROCK OUTCROP
- BICYCLE & HIKING TRAIL



PARK FACILITIES MAP

Appendix C
Actions Pertaining To the Park

CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

ACTIONS PERTAINING TO THE PARK

Acquisition and Development

July 23, 1909	Wisconsin State Park Board passed resolution asking Governor J.O. Davidson for approval to purchase. Governor approved same day.
May 3, 1930	Denied a request for an airport - not compatible with the use for which parks were created.
July 27, 1930	Granted request of Indian Chief Kohquados that space near totem pole be reserved for his burial.
November 29, 1930	Historical Society was granted permission to erect a marker on the site of the residence of Increase Claflin.
December 19, 1931	Accepted the Eagle Bluff Light Station Reservation from the Department of Commerce.
February 11, 1952	Approved transfer of lands from Town of Ephraim to Gibraltar
April 10, 1953	Approved the construction of an all purpose building on the golf course.
November 11, 1955	Approved furnishing electric current to Nicolet Bay area.
September 13, 1963	Authorized construction of a storage garage and shop (\$25,000 estimate) Gave blanket approval to proceed with plans and specs and award a contract for buildings - estimated at \$381,205. (Each project to be submitted subsequently.)
January 31, 1964	Authorized the Department to increase expenditure for the storage garage and shop from \$25,000 to \$27,367.50.
January 14, 1965	Authorized the construction of a diorama for use in the interpretive program.
February 12, 1965	Authorized the conversion of the old group camp building into an interpretive center.
July 16, 1965	Authorized construction of: -Welcher's Point camp area water distribution and electrical system -Tennison Bay camp area water distribution system -Tennison Bay camp area-first section of electrical distribution system -Welcher's Point-2 sets, 4 unit block toilets...
January 14, 1966	Approved construction of 2 sets of toilets at Welcher's Point camping area.
March 8, 1966	Authorized pit toilet construction.
April 15, 1966	Authorized the Department to award contracts for construction of a water system and electrical work at Welcher's Point and Tennison Bay Camp areas.
May 18, 1966	Completion of sewer, water and building projects - additional toilet at Welcher's Point. Approved increasing fund from \$381,206 (1963) to \$389,446.

Acquisition and Development

July 26, 1966	Approved change order No. 1 for \$3,996.13 (water supply system).
September 9, 1966	Authorized awarding of contracts for 11 toilet buildings (\$142,500).
December 9, 1966	Authorized awarding of a contract for the sewage disposal and water supply system.
December 11, 1969	Approved acreage goal change from 3,767.22 A to 3,779.32 A.

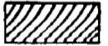
Park Operations

November 8, 1943	Extended Camp Meenagha lease five years. Commission contemplates a policy to discontinue commercial enterprise in state parks.
April 13, 1951	Approved increasing golf fees.
February 8, 1957	Approved devising camp ground and golf course schedule in state parks and forests.
March 12, 1959	Approved golf course charges.
September 13, 1963	Approved golf course charges.
February 12, 1965	Approved golf course charges.
April 26, 1970	Approved golf course charges.
January 18, 1973	Peninsula is designated as a state park where vehicle admission stickers are required from January 1 through December 31.

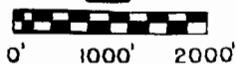
Appendix D
Ownership Map



OWNERSHIP

-  PARK BOUNDARY (PROJECT BOUNDARY)
-  PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED
-  STATE OWNED LANDS OUTSIDE PROJECT BOUNDARY

**PENINSULA
STATE PARK**



SCALE: 1" = 2000'

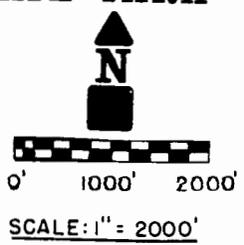
Appendix E
Soils

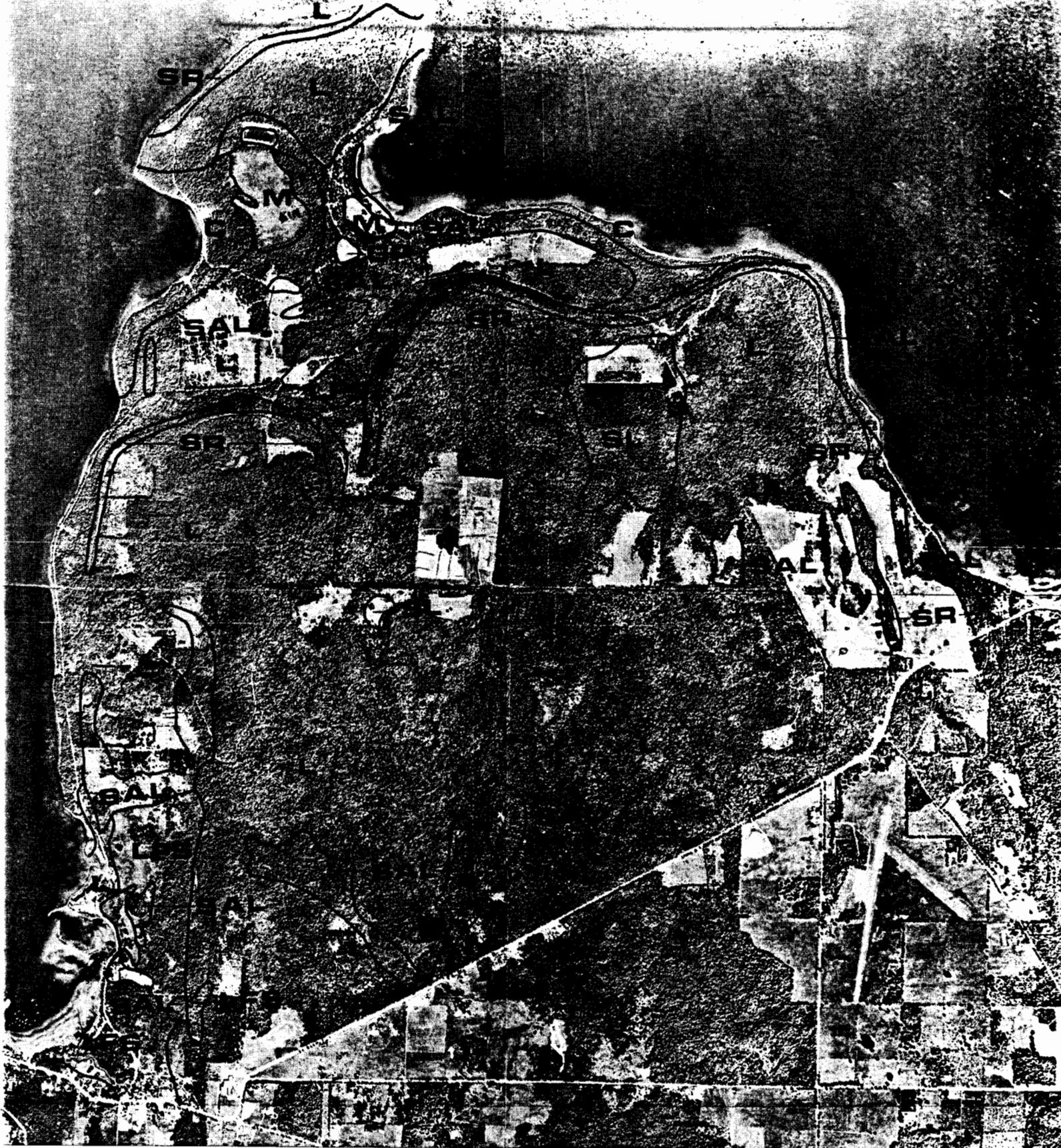


SOILS

-  SEVERE LIMITATIONS
-  MODERATE LIMITATIONS
-  SLIGHT LIMITATIONS

PENINSULA
STATE PARK



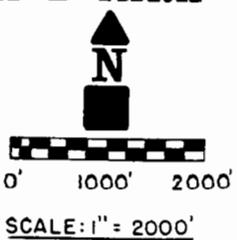


SOIL TYPES

- L** — LOAM
- SL** — SILT LOAM
- SAL** — SANDY LOAM
- LFS** — LOAMY FINE SAND
- SR** — STONY & ROCKY

- GP** GRAVEL PIT
- S** SANDY
- C** COBBLY
- M** MUCK

**PENINSULA
STATE PARK**



SOILS OF PENINSULA STATE PARK

<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Recreational Development Limitation</u>
LOAMS (L)		
Bonduel	Somewhat poorly drained - Moderately deep, dark colored loamy soil over limestone bedrock at 20 to 40 inches.	Moderate
Angelica	Poorly drained - Deep, dark colored soil with reddish-brown clay loam subsoil over calcareous reddish-brown loam glacial material at 20 to 30 inches. They occur in depressions and drainageways of glacial uplands.	Severe
Longrie	Well drained - Moderately deep, light colored loamy soil over limestone bedrock at 20 to 40 inches.	Slight
Namur	Well drained - Very shallow, light colored loamy soil over limestone bedrock at less than 12 inches.	Slight
Summerville	Well drained - Shallow, light colored loamy soil over loamy limestone bedrock at 10 to 20 inches.	Slight
Onaway	Well drained - Deep, light colored soil with reddish-brown clay loam subsoil over calcareous reddish-brown loam glacial material at 20 to 30 inches. They occur on glacial uplands.	Slight
Solona	Somewhat poorly drained - Deep, dark colored soil with reddish-brown clay loam subsoil over calcareous reddish-brown loam glacial material at 25 to 30 inches. They occur in depressions and drainageways of glacial uplands.	Moderate
SILT LOAMS (SL)		
Kolberg	Well to moderately well drained - Moderately deep, light colored soil with reddish-brown silty clay loam subsoil over limestone bedrock at 20 to 40 inches.	Moderate
Kewaunee	Well to moderately well drained - Deep, light colored soil with a clayey subsoil over clayey glacial material. They occur on glacial uplands.	Slight
Manawa	Somewhat poorly drained - Deep, dark colored soil with reddish-brown clay subsoil over clayey glacial material. They occur in depressions and drainageways of glacial uplands.	Moderate
SANDY LOAMS (SAL)		
Alpena	Excessively drained - Very shallow, light colored soil over calcareous sand and gravel at less than 15 inches.	Moderate
Bonduel	Shallow, somewhat poorly drained - Shallow, dark colored loamy soil over limestone bedrock at 10 to 20 inches.	Moderate
Gibraltar	Well drained - Deep, light colored soil with reddish-brown sandy clay loam subsoil over calcareous reddish-brown loam glacial material at less than 20 inches.	Slight
Gibraltar Variant	Wet variant, somewhat poorly drained - Deep light colored soil, with reddish brown mottled, sandy clay loam subsoil over calcareous reddish-brown loam glacial material at less than 20 inches.	Moderate
Yahara	Somewhat poorly drained - Deep, dark colored silty soil over layered silt and fine sand. They occur in lacustrine plains.	Moderate

Emmet	Well drained - Deep, light colored soil with reddish-brown sandy clay loam subsoil over calcareous reddish-brown loam glacial material at 20 to 40 inches.	Slight
Kiva	Excessively drained - Shallow, light colored loamy soil over calcareous sand and gravel at 10 to 20 inches.	Moderate
Duel	Gray subsoil variant, somewhat poorly to poorly drained - Moderately deep, moderately dark colored sandy soil over limestone bedrock at 20 to 40 inches.	Severe
LOAMY FINE SAND (LFS)		
Rousseau	Excessively drained - Deep light colored sandy soils. They occur on outwash plains and undulating outwash areas.	Severe
Wainola	Somewhat poorly drained - Deep, moderately dark colored, sandy soil over calcareous sand. They occur on lacustrine or outwash plains.	Moderate
Roscommon	Poorly drained - Deep, dark colored sandy soil in depressions and drainageways of outwash plains.	Severe
Duel	Well drained - Moderately deep, light colored sandy soil over limestone bedrock at 20 to 40 inches.	Severe
MUCK (M)		
Carbondale	Very poorly drained - Organic matter over 50 inches thick in depressional areas and along stream bottoms. Subject to frequent flooding.	Severe
Markey	Very poorly drained - Organic matter over sandy material at 12 to 40 inches. They occur in depressional areas and along stream bottoms and are subject to frequent flooding.	Severe
SANDY (S)		
Lake Beaches	Excessively drained - Deep light colored sandy soil. They generally occur along shoreline and beaches.	Severe
COBBLY (C)		
Lake Beaches	Excessively drained - Deep, cobble and gravel soil They generally occur along shoreline and beaches.	Severe
STONY AND ROCKY (SR)		
	Excessively drained - Rock escarpments and outcrops with practically no soil present. They also occur in association with the Niagara escarpment.	Severe

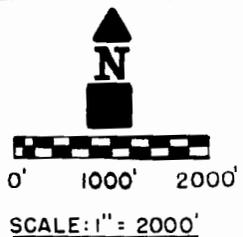
Appendix F
General Site Limitation Map



GENERAL SITE LIMITATIONS

-  SEVERE LIMITATIONS
-  MODERATE LIMITATIONS
-  SLIGHT LIMITATIONS

PENINSULA
STATE PARK



Appendix G
Forest Cover Type Map

FOREST COVER MAP SYMBOLS

NH	Northern Hardwoods
NH (Bw)	Northern Hardwood with White Birch
(Bw) NH	Northern Hardwoods with over 50% White Birch
C Bw	White Cedar and White Birch
Bw	White Birch
Pw	White Pine
Pr	Red Pine
SC SH	Swamp Hardwood with over 50% Swamp Conifers
UB	Upland Brush
G	Grass
A	Aspen
FS	Fir/Spruce

Appendix I
Wildlife

Mammals that may be Found within the Park

Whitetail deer - common	Brown rat - rare
Red fox - uncommon	Porcupine - common
Northeastern coyote - very rare	Woodchuck - uncommon
Raccoon - common	Striped skunk - uncommon
Snowshoe hare - uncommon	Short-tailed weasel - uncommon
Cottontail rabbit - uncommon	Long-tailed weasel - uncommon
Gray squirrel - uncommon	Mink - rare
Red squirrel - uncommon	Short-tailed shrew - common
Flying squirrel - uncommon	Cinereous shrew - common
Thirteen-lined ground squirrel - uncommon	Little brown bat - common
Gray chipmunk - common	Big brown bat - uncommon
Woodland deer mouse - common	Hoary bat - rare (migratory)
Meadow mouse - common	Silver-haired bat - rare (migratory)
Red-backed mouse - uncommon	Red bat - rare (migratory)
House mouse - rare	Pipistrelle bat - uncommon (migratory)
	Keene's bat - uncommon (migratory)

Reptiles and Amphibians that may be Found within the Park

Eastern garter snake - common	Wood frog - uncommon to rare
Fox snake - uncommon	Gray tree frog - uncommon
Northern brown snake - uncommon	Leopard frog - rare
Red-bellied snake - uncommon	Chorus frog - uncommon
Smooth green snake - probable	Spring peeper - uncommon
Brown water snake - (uncommon) rare	Red-backed salamander - common
American toad - common	Blue-spotted salamander - uncommon

Birds that may be Found within the Park

The following list identifies those species of birds that have a high probability of being observed at the park. It does not include all species that could possibly pass through or near the park. The symbol R refers to a year-round resident, SV to a summer visitor, i.e., a bird that might visit the park but not necessarily nest there, and WV to a winter visitor. SN is a summer nester and T refers to a common or important transient, usually associated with migration. The figures in parentheses indicate the numbers tallied during the breeding bird census of July, 1971 sponsored by the Scientific Areas Council.

	<u>LOONS</u>		<u>GULLS AND TERNS</u>
T	Loon	SV	Herring gull (33)
	<u>SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS</u>	SV	Ring-billed gull (3)
T	Whistling swan	SV	Bonaparte's gull
T	Canada goose	T	Forster's tern - Endangered Species
T	Mallard (21)	T	Common tern - Endangered Species
T	Black duck (2)	T	Caspian tern
T	Baldpate	T	Black tern
T	Pintail		<u>PIGEONS AND DOVES</u>
T	Gadwall (2)	R	Rock dove
T	Blue-winged teal (1)	SN	Mourning dove (1)
T	Redhead		<u>CUCKOOS</u>
T	Canvas-back	SN	Yellow-bellied cuckoo
T	Great scaup duck	SN	Black-billed cuckoo
T	Lesser scaup duck		<u>OWLS</u>
T	American golden-eye (1)	R	Screech owl
T	Buffle-head	R	Great horned owl
T	Ruddy duck	WV	Snowy owl
T	American merganser	R	Barred owl
T	Red-brown merganser (13)	WV	Saw-whet owl
	<u>VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES, Etc.</u>		<u>WHIP-POOR-WILLS AND NIGHT HAWKS</u>
WV	Goshawk	SN	Whip-poor-will (2)
SN	Sharp-shinned hawk	SN	Night hawk
SN	Cooper's hawk - Threatened Species		<u>SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS</u>
SN	Red-tailed hawk	SN	Chimney swift
SN	Red-shouldered hawk - Threatened	SN	Ruby-throated hummingbird
SN	Broad-winged hawk Species		<u>KINGFISHERS</u>
WV	Am. Rough-legged hawk	T	Belted kingfisher
T	Bald eagle - Endangered Species		<u>WOODPECKERS</u>
T	Osprey - Endangered Species	SN	Flicker
T	Pigeon hawk	R	Pileated woodpecker
SN	Sparrow hawk	SN	Red-headed woodpecker
	<u>GROUSE, QUAILS, PHEASANTS</u>	SN	Yellow-bellied sapsucker
R	Ruffed grouse (1)	R	Hairy woodpecker (2)
	<u>CRANES, RAILS, COOTS, Etc.</u>	R	Downy woodpecker (1)
T	Coot		<u>FLYCATCHERS</u>
	<u>PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS, SNIPE, Etc.</u>	SN	Kingbird
SN	Killdeer (2)	SN	Crested flycatcher (2)
T	Ruddy turnstone	SN	Phoebe
SN	Woodcock	T	Yellow-bellied flycatcher
SN	Wilson's snipe	T	Alder flycatcher
SN	Spotted sandpiper (1)	SN	Least flycatcher (3)
T	Solitary sandpiper	SN	Wood pewee (11)
T	Lesser yellow-legs	T	Olive-sided flycatcher
T	Pectoral sandpiper		
T	White-rumped sandpiper		
T	Baird's sandpiper		
T	Least sandpiper		
T	Red-backed sandpiper		
T	Semipalmated sandpiper		
T	Sanderling		
T	Northern phalarope		

LARKS

T Northern horned lark
T Prairie horned lark

SWALLOWS

SN Tree swallow (6)
T Bank swallow
T Rough-winged swallow
SN Barn swallow
T Cliff swallow
SN Purple martin (4)

JAYS, CROWS, TITMICE Etc.

R Blue jay (12)
R Crow
R Black-cap. chickadee (8)
R White-breasted nuthatch (1)
R Red-breasted nuthatch (2)
T Brown creeper

WRENS, THRASHERS, Etc.

SN House wren (6)
SN Winter wren (4)
SN Catbird
SN Brown thrasher

THRUSHES

SN Robin (28)
SN Wood thrush (4)
T Hermit thrush
T Olive-backed thrush
T Gray-cheeked thrush
SN Veery (23)
SN Bluebird

KINGLETS, PIPITS, Etc.

T Blue-gray gnatcatcher
WV Golden-crowned kinglet
T Ruby-crowned kinglet

WAXWINGS, SHRIKES AND STARLINGS

SN Cedar waxwing (8)
R Starling (6)

VIREOS

T Yellow-throated vireo
T Blue-headed vireo
SN Red-eyed vireo (31)
T Philadelphia vireo
SN Warbling vireo

WEAVER FINCHES

R English sparrow

MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES

SN Eastern meadowlark
SN Western meadowlark
SN Redwing (52)
SN Baltimore oriole
T Rusty blackbird
T Brewer's blackbird
SN Bronzed grackle (18)
SN Cowbird (6)

WARBLERS

SN Bl. and wh. warbler (3)
T Golden-winged warbler
T Blue-winged warbler
T Tennessee warbler
T Nashville warbler
T Parula warbler
SN Yellow warbler
T Magnolia warbler
T Cape May warbler
T Myrtle warbler
SN Bl.-thr. green warbler (16)
T Blackburnian warbler (1)
SN Chestnut-sided warbler
T Palm warbler
T Pine warbler (3)
SN Oven-bird (26)
T Grinnell's water thrush
T No. water thrush (1)
T Northern yellow-throat
T Wilson's warbler
T Mourning warbler (1)
T Canada warbler (1)
SN Redstart (18)

TANAGERS

SN Scarlet tanager (7)

GROSBEAKS, SPARROWS, LONGSPURS, Etc.

R Cardinal
SN Rose-breasted grosbeak (14)
SN Indigo bunting
WV Evening grosbeak
WV Purple finch
WV Pine grosbeak
WV Common redpoll
WV Pine siskin
R Goldfinch
WV Red crossbill
WV White-winged crossbill
SN Red-eyed towhee
SN Savannah sparrow
SN Vesper sparrow
WV Slate-colored junco
WV Tree sparrow
SN Chipping sparrow (4)
SN Field sparrow
T White-crowned sparrow
T White-thr. sparrow (1)
T Fox sparrow
T Swamp sparrow
SN Song sparrow (11)
WV Snow bunting

Appendix H
Fish Resources

Fish Species
Seine Surveys July 1, 1975

a1) Nicolet Bay

Spottail shiner	-	abundant
Bluntnose minnow	-	abundant
Perch	-	abundant
Johnny darter	-	scarce

a2) Weborg Point

Bluntnose minnow	-	present
Spottail shiner	-	abundant
Perch	-	present
Smallmouth bass	-	present
Alewife	-	present
Rock bass	-	present
Johnny darter	-	present

b) Wetlands by Shore Road

Carp	-	scarce
Bullhead	-	abundant
Pumpkinseed	-	scarce
Smallmouth bass	-	scarce
Bluntnose minnow	-	abundant
Northern pike	-	scarce

c) Fish Creek

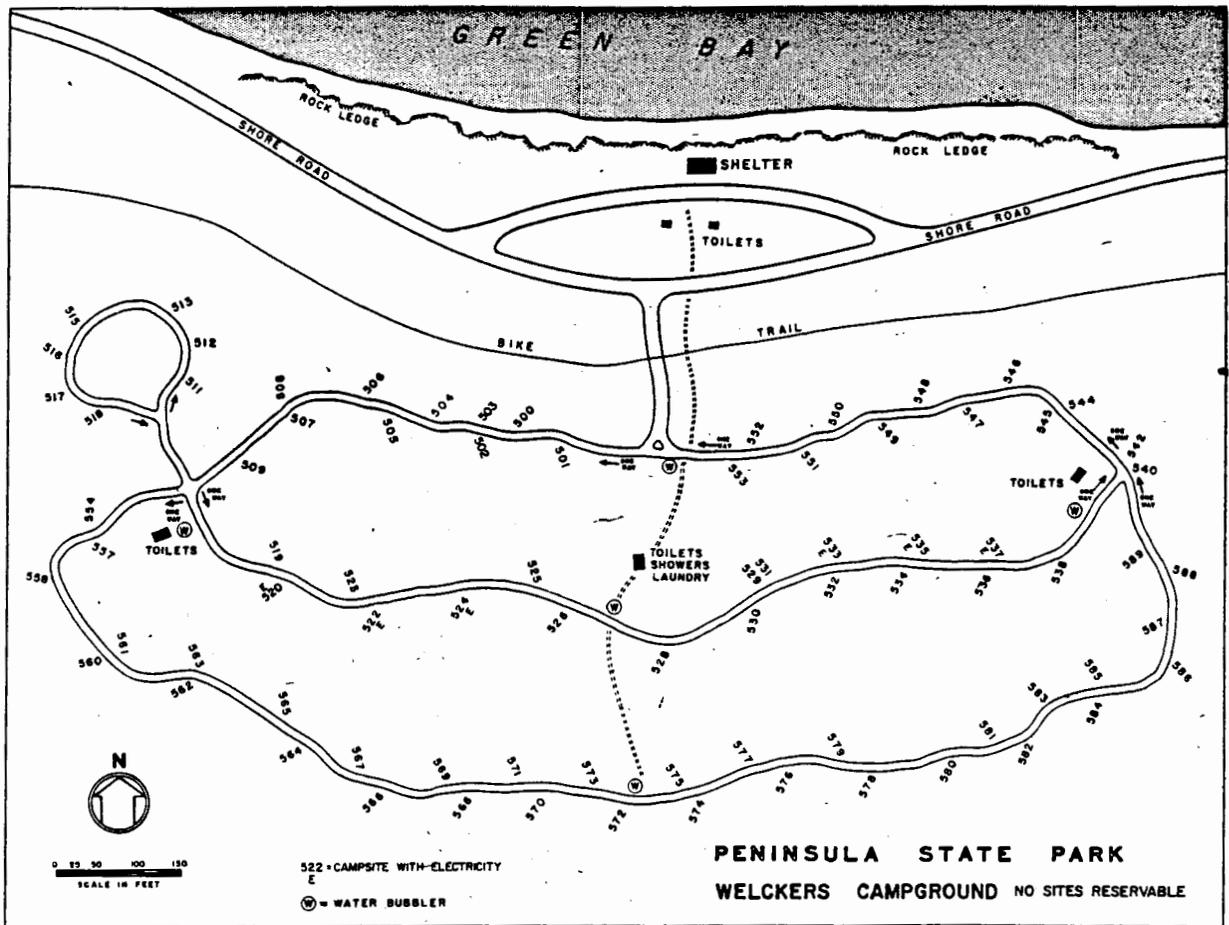
Perch	-	present
Northern pike	-	present
Alewife	-	present
Bluntnose minnow	-	abundant
Spottail shiner	-	abundant
Pumpkinseed	-	present
Rock bass	-	scarce

Commercially or Recreationally Important Fish

Lake whitefish
Lake trout
Chinook salmon
Coho salmon
Rainbow trout
Brown trout
Brook trout
Carp
Alewife
Common shiner
Mud minnow

Northern pike
Smallmouth bass
Yellow perch
Bullhead spp.
Burbot
Sturgeon sucker
White sucker
Menominee
Herring
Chub
Smelt
Sea lamprey

Appendix J
Campground Maps



Weborg

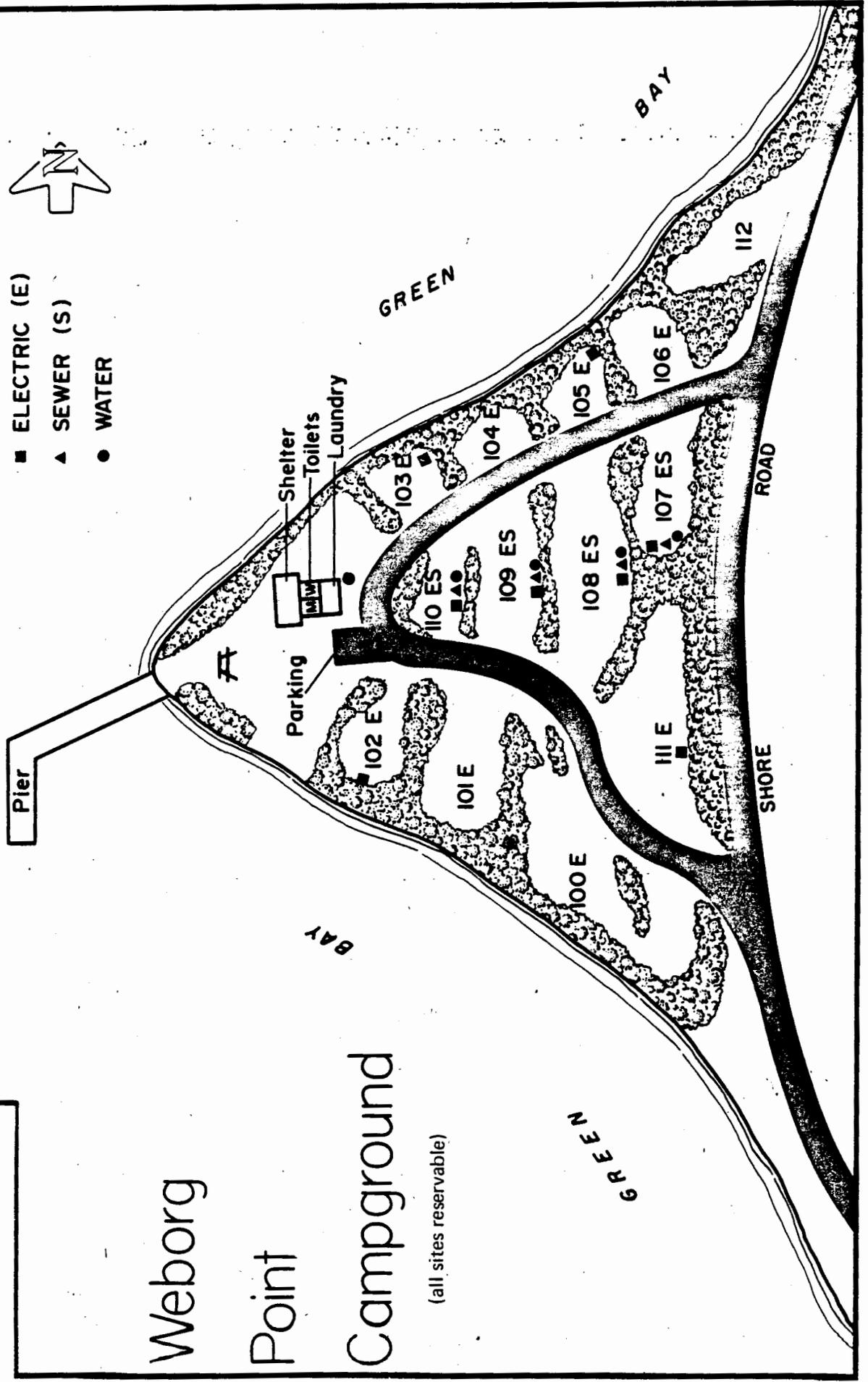
Point

Campground

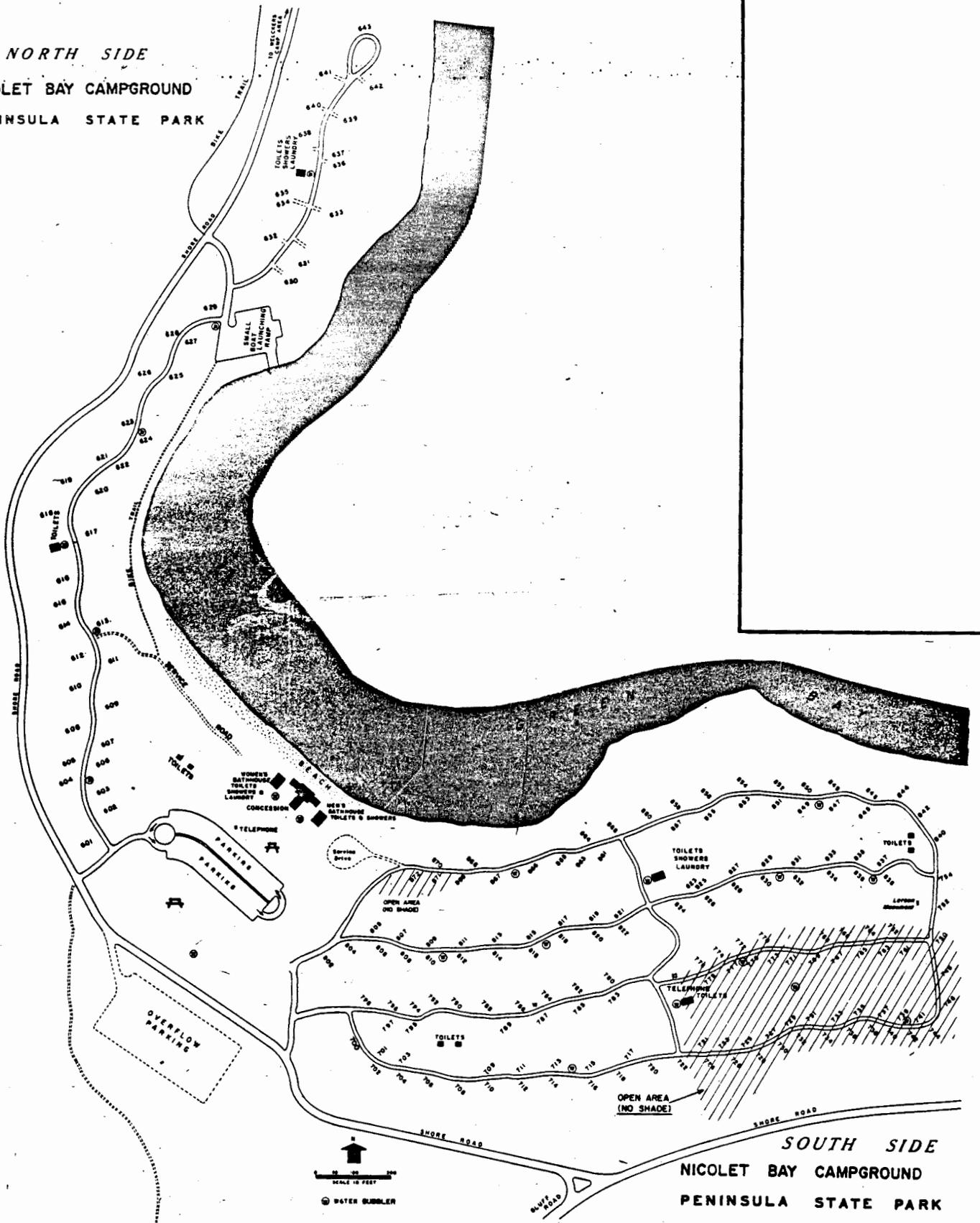
(all sites reservable)



- ELECTRIC (E)
- ▲ SEWER (S)
- WATER



**NORTH SIDE
NICOLET BAY CAMPGROUND
PENINSULA STATE PARK**



**SOUTH SIDE
NICOLET BAY CAMPGROUND
PENINSULA STATE PARK**

Appendix K
Planning Guidelines

PENINSULA STATE PARK
PLANNING GUIDELINES

Background

Peninsula State Park, with an acreage goal of 3,775.17, is located on the west side of the Door County Peninsula between the Towns of Fish Creek and Ephraim on Green Bay.

Peninsula State Park is one of six state parks located in Door County. It is the third largest state park in the area and offers a broad array of facilities. The Green Bay shoreline is marked by a series of scenic limestone cliffs and bluffs, with cobblestone or sand beaches at their base. There are nearly seven miles of shoreline within the park with bluffs rising up to 180 feet above the surface of the lake. The park offers over 500 campsites, picnicking and swimming facilities, an historic lighthouse and a golf course.

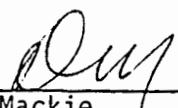
Peninsula was one of the four sites recommended for state park acquisition by Wisconsin's first State Park Board in 1907. The park was established in 1910 and has grown steadily in popularity. In 1976, park attendance reached 1,097,302 visitors ranking second in the state park system.

Development and Management

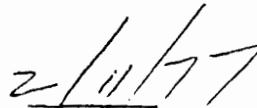
The master plan should concentrate on the protection of the natural and scenic resources and for compatible forms of outdoor recreation and education. Several tracts within the park should receive special protection under the Board's Wild Resources Policy. The park should provide for day-use and camping facilities with the percentage of undeveloped area remaining about the same.

No increase in intensive use capacity should be planned. Emphasis should be on upgrading present facilities with a rustic motif. A one-entrance park with abandonment of some of the existing roads should be investigated.

RECOMMENDED:

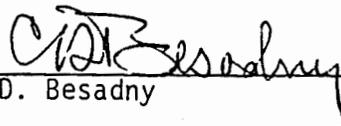


D. J. Mackie

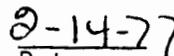


Date

APPROVED:



C. D. Besadny



Date

aa
2-9-77

Appendix L
Land Use Map

Appendix M
Scientific Areas

SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA REPORT
Wisconsin Scientific Areas Preservation Council

Latest

NAME OF AREA Peninsula Beech-Maple Forest INSPECTION DATE 30 September 1979

QUARTER NE COUNTY Door TWP. 31N RANGE 27E SECTIONS 14, 15, 22

BOUNDARIES AND ACREAGE of Sect. 14: S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (15 acres); Sect. 15: part S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
proposed or established area and buffer: east of Sentinel Trail (43 acres); Sect. 22: part N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
east of Highland Rd. (22 acres). Total size 80 acres more-or-less.

ACCESS TO AREA: Excellent access to scientific area in northeast corner of Peninsula
State Park. Shore Road passes through area, Highland Road is on west
edge and Sentinel Trail forms NW border. Parking at Eagle Tower just
north of area.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA: Outstanding features, primary and secondary biotic communities, dominants, understory and rare species, topography, soils
geology and archeology.

This area features a continuum of forest types from the dry edge of the Niagara dolomite escarpment to rolling uplands forested with mesic species. The northern mesic forest is old second growth, with sugar maple, Am. beech and hemlock plus yellow birch, white birch, and ironwood, some of the dominants to 20" DBH. Relic red oak and white pine to 30" DBH are scattered. To the east, between Shore Rd. and the bluff edge is a young northern dry-mesic forest dominated by red oak and white pine. The bluff drops about 150 feet in several terraces, which are forested with white cedar and hardwoods. The base of the bluff supports bulblet, fragile, polypody, slender cliffbrake, walking, and marginal woodferns. The Green Bay beach is mostly unvegetated dolomite cobblestones. Numerous mesic forest species and several species of uncommon orchids are present. A plant species list is available from the Scientific Areas Section.

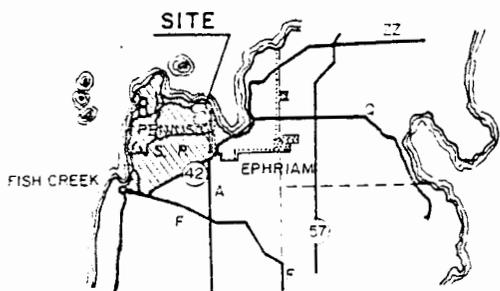
HISTORY OF LAND USE AND LIMITING FACTORS: Land in scientific area was acquired in the 1900-12 period, thus it has had 70 years
of protection as part of the park. Some timber harvest prior to that time certainly
occurred, and there may have been some grazing for short periods in the park.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION: Landowner and administrator, existing and proposed management, degree of scientific, educational and
recreational use of area, adjacent lands and compatibility. Under the protective management of the Department
of Natural Resources as a part of Peninsula State Park. Management consists of
maintenance along Sentinel Trail on the northwest edge. Heavy hiking and other day
use just to the north at Eagle Tower and along various trails.

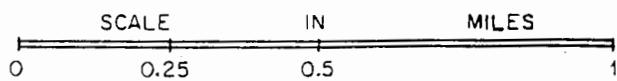
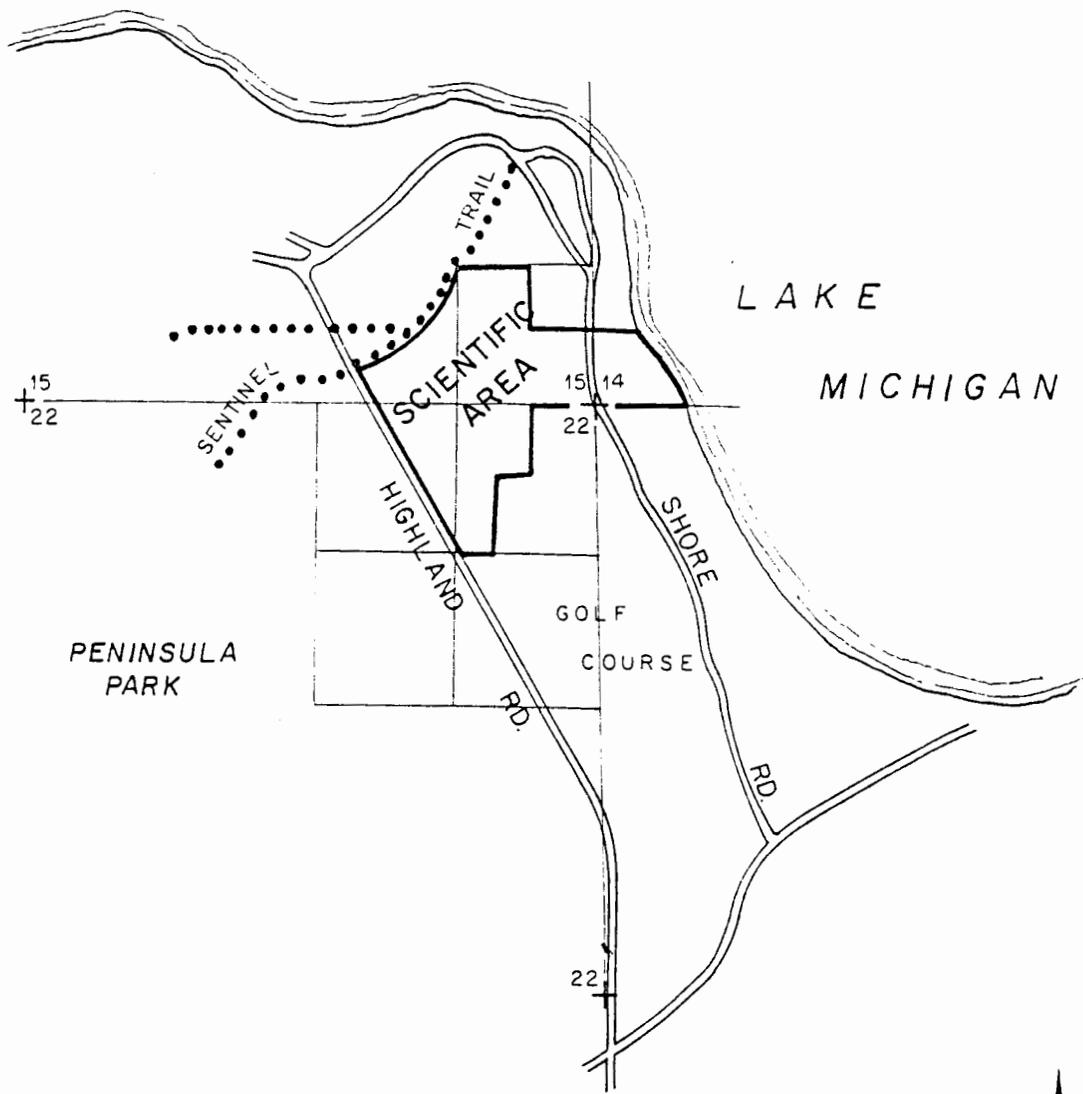
REFERENCE INFORMATION: Person recommending area, references, quadrangle and other publications and date of action taken toward
designation of area. Recommended 1979 by L. Frelich and Scientific Areas Section as an expansion
and delineation of the original scientific area designated in 1952. Area listed in
Curtis' book The Vegetation of Wisconsin as containing a representative northern mesic
forest. Two sites within the scientific area are used by UW Plant Ecology Lab for
gathering quantitative baseline data on vegetation.

REPORT BY: William Tans DATE: November 1980

PENINSULA BEECH - MAPLE FOREST SCIENTIFIC AREA



LOCATOR MAP, DOOR COUNTY



Wisconsin Scientific Areas Preservation Council
Scientific or Natural Area Report

Name of Area Peninsula White Cedar Forest Inspection Date February, 1972

Quarter NE County Door Twsp. 31N Range 27E Sections 28 and 29

Boundaries and acreage of Scientific area: About 30 acres in section 28 described as proposed or established follows: that portion of SW 1/4 NW 1/4 and N 1/2 NW 1/4 area and buffer SW 1/4 w. t of the bluff summit. Section 29: the east 15 acres of Government Lot 2 and the northeast 8 acres of Government

Access to area Lot 3 Total size of 53 acres Buffer zone - marsh land between the scientific area and park road.

In Peninsula State Park: 1) North almost 1/2 mile from contact station on Shore Road, then eastward by foot, 2) south on Sunset trail from

Description of area: Outstanding features, primary and secondary biotic communities, dominants, understory and rare species, topography, soils, geology and archeology.

The Peninsula Park Cedar-Spruce Swamp features several distinct community types: 1) Open marsh dominated by Calamagrostis canadensis (Bluejoint) with Phragmites communis (Reed Grass) and Juncus sp. (Rush), 2) Open calcareous meadow on abandoned beach zone with Iris lacustris (Dwarf Iris), Primula mistassinica (Primrose), Polygala paucifolia (Purple Gaywings), Gentianopsis (procera?) (Fringed Gentian) and Juniperus communis var. depressa (Low juniper). 3) The transition between low and upper beach is occupied by cedar-spruce swamp dominated by Thuja occidentalis (White Cedar) with Picea glauca (White spruce) and P. mariana (Black Spruce). 4) Vertical cliffs of Niagara, limestone. 5) Upland forest dominated by white cedar and Betula papyrifera (White Birch with small Acer saccharum (Sugar Maple) at the summit of the abandoned beach line. Pinus strobus (White Pine) and Tsuga canadensis (Hemlock) are occasional along the cliff.

History of land use and limiting factors: Sunset Trail and the bluff's summit mark the area's eastern boundary.

Administrative information: Land owner and administrator, existing and proposed management, degree of scientific, educational and recreational use of area, adjacent lands and compatibility. Owned by Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Within Peninsula State Park.

Area receives use by park visitors from Sunset Trail. Extensive woodlands are adjacent to the scientific area on three sides; to the west lies marsh, the park road and Green Bay.

An in depth analysis of breeding bird and plant populations during spring and summer months is recommended.

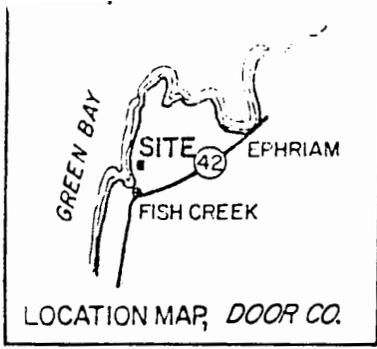
Reference information: person recommending area, references, quadrangle and other publications and date of action taken toward designation of area.

Recommended by John T. Curtis in June, 1952. Established November 1, 1952. See Sister Bay Quadrangle and Park Folder.

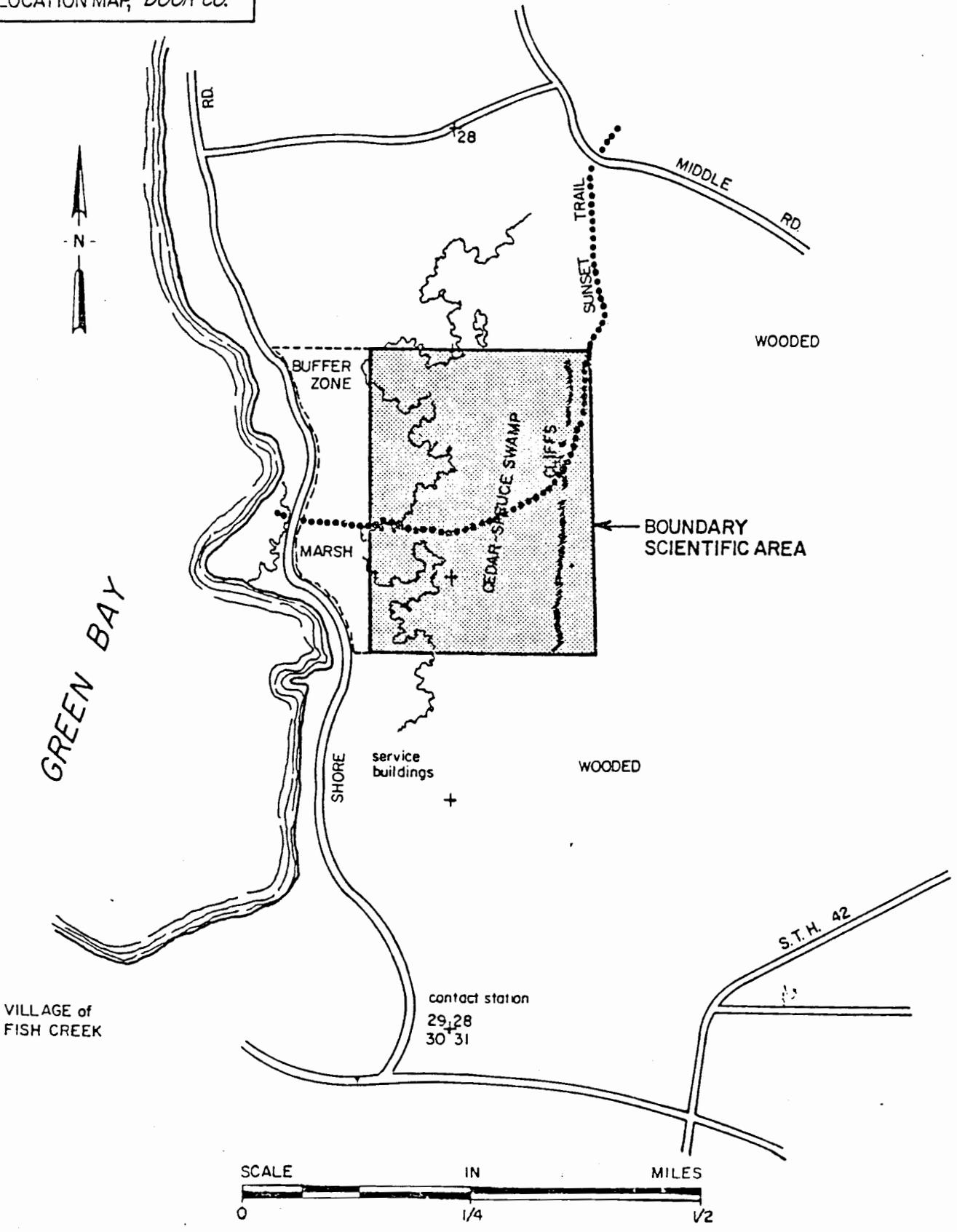
Rev. 3/71

Report by: William Tans

Date: February, 1972



PENINSULA PARK CEDAR-SPRUCE SWAMP SCIENTIFIC AREA



Appendix N
Council Review Comments and Department Response

October 10, 1980

D. J. Mackie, Director
Bureau of Parks
Box 7921, DNR
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Don:

The Wild Resources Advisory Council wishes to congratulate the Property Task Force of Daniel Rogers, Gary Patzke, Jordan Korotev, Daniel Olson and Lee Kernan for presenting a realistic and finite document, in Peninsula State Park Master Plan Concept Element. The Council finds the statement of "Park ethic" appropriate and we concur with its philosophy and application. The WRAC wishes to stress two concerns: 1) The Property Goal states "To protect the natural and scenic resources of the park and to provide compatible forms of outdoor recreation and education." The recreational component receives remarkable and very exhaustive treatment. However the educational component suffers from omission and very low context visibility; 2) Somewhere in the next ten years the Peninsula State Park managers must face the problem of overuse. There is a definite possibility of the users loving the Park to death.

Sincerely,



Henry W. Kolka, Chairperson
Wild Resources Advisory Council

Review, Comments and Recommendations for the Peninsula State Park Master Plan Concept Element by the Wild Resources Advisory Council.

General Review

The Wild Resources Advisory Council recognizes the excellence achieved by Property Task Force's Peninsula State Park Master Plan Concept Element. The Council admires the stand taken by the park planners against adding new uses within the park, particularly those with potential deleterious impacts on its natural environment.

In the lead letter to D. J. Makie, Director of the Bureau of Parks, the WRAC expressed two vital concerns in respect to Park future welfare:

1. Even though the property goal projects "compatible forms of outdoor recreation and education," the educational component suffers from inadequate exposure in the document. In a telephone conversation with Cliff Germain, he assures me that the nature center and the nature interpreters do an excellent job with the visitor programs in this area. The Council contends that the Master Plan Concept Element should verbally expose this significant service for the present and future.

2. According to the Property Task Force's statistical fact, the Peninsula State Park, in 1979, accommodated an awesome attendance of 1,226,774. The WRAC is seriously concerned with what environmental impact these growing numbers have and will have on the natural quality of the Park. Somewhere along the way, quite possibly already, the point of no return will be reached and the quality of park's natural environment will begin to deteriorate. Sooner or later limiting the number of users must be considered by the Park managers and programs of sensible number controls installed.

Comments and Recommendations

1. Table of Contents

The Wild Resources Advisory Council recommends that following titles be added and appropriately addressed in the text:

a. Section II after F-G be labeled as Education and the listed G be changed to H.

b. Section IV. Add C-Educational Demands and Needs.

2. page 1--Accessibility Table

The WRAC questions the inadvisability of some of distance-hour relationships in light of the legal 55 mile per hour speed limits. For instance:

- a. For people to reach the park from Chicago in 4 hours they would need to average 58+ miles per hour.
- b. From Madison the average speed would likewise need to be 58+.
- c. From Wausau the needed average speed would be 68.
- d. From Manitowoc 62 m/hr.
- e. Sheboygan 59+.
- f. From Rockford almost 70 m/hr.

The Council advises adjustments for the above.

3. page 3--Item 6 under Present Use and Management

The so called sites 12 and 13 are actually in the Scientific Areas Preservation Council's vernacular, designated areas 12 and 13. Clifford Germain of the SAPC assures me that both areas are very much alive and will be continued to be posted in the SAPC inventory. The WRAC recommends that a map and Scientific Area Report be included in Appendix M for Area 12 as it is for Area 13.

4. pages 4 and 5--Vegetation

The only substandard presentation, in the opinion of the WRAC, in the Peninsula State Park Master Plan Concept Element, falls in the realm of flora and its contribution to the education programs. The listing of plants under the 13 vegetative categories is unique and interesting but far from exhaustive. The Council suggests that inventory of plants be derived for the appendix matching in excellence with Appendix H-Fish Resources and Appendix I-Wildlife.

5. page 4--Heading E, Landform

The heading seems to have no relation to topics discussed under it. Could the Task Force have intended "Description of Natural Patterns"?

6. page 5--Vegetative listing-Grass

It might be an idle question. Is there any possibility of initiating a prairie restoration program on some or all of the 216 acres of old farm fields? It would add another plant dimension for educational purpose.

7. page 5--Item 5

The WRAC suggests that item 5 be expanded to Game and Non-Game. Description paragraphs cover both categories.

8. page 10--II Analysis of Resource Potential

This heading is extremely confusing to the reviewer under the guidelines of a State Park creation and management, as the WRAC sees it, the main potential concerns falls under two headings--recreation and education. Wouldn't this cancel any discussion about commercial forestry, hunting, agriculture and mining? So why waste print space on these items? A section heading of Education and description would add more credibility to this segment of the report.

9. III Management Problems and Related Concerns--pages 11, 12 and 13

Excellent analysis and thorough. Council's compliments.

10. page 13, IV

The WRAC suggests that IV heading sentence add and Education between Recreation and Needs. The approved planning guidelines are very appropriate and the Council endorses them.

11. page 14--Recreational Demands and Needs

Considering the public use pressure already exerted and more expected on the Peninsula State Park the WRAC agrees and supports the Task Force's stand. A definite no to: wilderness camping, expansion of boating ramps and to horses and bridal trails.

12. page 14--Concept Alternatives and Analysis. Paragraph 3 under Limited Development

The "Wild Area" categorie under Manual Code 1031.1 does allow certain management patterns not in the best interests of Wisconsin's Parks. The section does, however, allow the property to set its own guidelines. The WRAC recommends that the Peninsula State Park planners set (in print) adequate and acceptable park guidelines for the two used wild resource categories: "Wild Areas" and "Public Use Natural Areas."

13. page 15--First paragraph under item 2, last line

As stated in comment 12, WRAC recommends that the Task Force spell out what limited development is proposed or not proposed for the "wild area" categorie.

14. page 16--Goal

WRAC considers the goal statement for the Peninsula State Park very appropriate. Excellent.

15. page 16--Property Objectives

WRAC recommends more visibility for the co-partner in the stated goal, education. Let it begin with the itemized column "Ultimate User Days" with a label Education. The Council further recommends that the topic Education be given respectable treatment under the heading VIII, Actions to Accomplish Goals and Objectives.

16. page 17--item 6

Not a meaningful statement. The WRAC recommends something of the following nature. "Provide a supportive habitat for non-game and for endangered and threatened species of wildlife. (Some migratory birds are not the only endangered and threatened species.)"

17. page 17--VIII Actions to Accomplish Goals and Objectives

The WRAC endorses the proposal of the park planners to attain the final goal of 3,785.34 acres. The Council was unable to locate the 10.73 outside of property boundary on the ownership chart. The Council on general principles does not favor selling and state owned lands. We have no objection to trade policy. WRAC also supports tighter control of Park access.

18. pages 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22

Other than the recommendations made by the WRAC in comment 15, the document reads beautifully, the analysis is superb and the projections are appropriate.

19. The base maps for the charts are excellent. The WRAC sees very little value in the chart labeled Topography. It certainly does not provide any topographic interpretative sensitivity. None of the charts show the cultural features such as different trails and roads thru or in the property. These are essential facts needed to interpret the written word.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry W. Kolka", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Henry W. Kolka, Chairperson
Wild Resources Advisory Council

yp

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

Date: December 30, 1980

File Ref: 2510

To: Richard Lindberg - PLN/6

From: D. J. Mackie *D. J. MACKIE*

Subject: WRAC Comments on Peninsula State Park Master Plan

Our Bureau's response to the Wild Resources Advisory Council comments and recommendations on the Peninsula State Park Master Plan are as follows:

1. Table of Contents

The Wild Resources Advisory Council recommends that following titles be added and appropriately addressed in the text:

- a. Section II after F-G labeled as Education and the listed G be changed to H.
- b. Section IV. Add C-Educational Demands and Needs.

Department Response:

- a. Outdoor education is now addressed in Section VIII under Management and Policy.
- b. This section addresses the demand and need data derived from the 1977 Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan. The plan does not include demand data for outdoor education or nature interpretation activities, therefore, it is not covered in the plan.

2. Page 1 -- Accessibility Table

The WRAC questions the inadvisability of some of the distance-hour relationships in light of the legal 55 mile per hour speed limits. For instance:

- a. For people to reach the park from Chicago in 4 hours they would need to average 58+ miles per hour.
- b. From Madison the average speed would likewise need to be 58+.
- c. From Wausau the needed average speed would be 68.
- d. From Manitowoc 62 m/hr.
- e. Sheboygan 59+.
- f. From Rockford almost 70 m/hr.

Department Response:

All of the distance-hour relationships were recalculated and the table revised accordingly.

3. Page 3 -- Item 6 under Present Use and Management

The so called sites 12 and 13 are actually in the Scientific Areas Preservation Council's vernacular, designated areas 12 and 13. Clifford Germain of the SAPC assures me that both areas are very much alive and will continue to be posted in the SAPC inventory. The WRAC recommends that a map and Scientific Area Report be included in Appendix M for area 12 as it is for area 13.

Department Response:

We have requested the assistance of Mr. Germain in providing the latest descriptions of Scientific Area sites 12 and 13. If a report on area 12 is available, it will be placed in Appendix M.

4. Pages 4 and 5 -- Vegetation

The only substandard presentation, in the opinion of the WRAC, in the Peninsula State Park Master Plan Concept Element, falls in the realm of flora and its contribution to the education programs. The listing of plants under the 13 vegetative categories is unique and interesting but far from exhaustive. The Council suggests that inventory of plants be derived for the appendix matching in excellence with Appendix H-Fish Resources and Appendix I-Wildlife.

Department Response:

A more complete plant list is not presently available, however, we are recommending in the master plan (second paragraph, P. 19) that as funds permit a biological inventory of all animal and plant species in the park should be conducted.

5. Page 4 -- Heading E, Landform

The heading seems to have no relation to topics discussed under it. Could the Task Force have intended "Description of Natural Patterns"?

Department Response:

Section E, page 4, was retitled "Resource Capabilities and Inventory."

6. Page 5 -- Vegetative listing-Grass

It might be an idle question. Is there any possibility of initiating a prairie restoration program on some or all of the 216 acres of old farm fields? It would add another plant dimension for educational purposes.

Department Response:

According to The Vegetation of Wisconsin by Curtis, native prairie did not extend into any of Door County. Rather than introduce non-typical plant species to the park, we prefer to let native plants invade the fields through natural succession.

7. Page 5 -- Item 5

The WRAC suggests that item 5 be expanded to Game and Nongame. Description paragraphs cover both categories.

Department Response:

Item 5 was retitled "Wildlife." In the last sentence of the first paragraph it was added that six endangered or threatened species are noted in the wildlife listing appearing in the appendix.

8. Page 10 -- II Analysis of Resource Potential

This heading is extremely confusing to the reviewer under the guidelines of a state park creation and management, as the WRAC sees it, the main potential concerns falls under two headings -- recreation and education. Wouldn't this cancel any discussion about commercial forestry, hunting, agriculture and mining? So why waste print space on these items? A section heading of Education and description would add more credibility to this segment of the report.

Department Response:

The Analysis of Resource Potential section was removed from the plan since most of the information under many of the same headings already appears in the Resource Capabilities and Inventory section on page 4.

9. III Management Problems and Related Concerns -- pages 11, 12 and 13

Excellent analysis and thorough. Council's compliments.

Department Response:

We thank the Council for the compliment.

10. Page 13, IV

The WRAC suggest that IV heading sentence add and Education between Recreation and Needs. The approved planning guidelines are very appropriate and the Council endorses them.

Department Response:

For the reasons mentioned in our response to Question #1, part b, the heading to Section IV was not changed.

11. Page 14 -- Recreational Demands and Needs

Considering the public use pressure already exerted and more expected on the Peninsula State Park the WRAC agrees and supports the Task Force's stand. A definite no to: wilderness camping, expansion of boating ramps and to horses and bridle trails.

Department Response:

Thank you for the Council's recommendations.

12. Page 14 -- Concept Alternatives and Analysis. Paragraph 3 under Limited Development

The "Wild Area" category under Manual Code 1031.1 does allow certain management patterns not in the best interests of Wisconsin's parks. The section does, however, allow the property to set its own guidelines. The WRAC recommends that the Peninsula State Park planners set (in print) adequate and acceptable park guidelines for the two used wild resource categories: "Wild Areas" and "Public Use Natural Areas."

Department Response:

In reconsidering the various land use classifications at Peninsula it was decided that the "wild area" classification be replaced with the more appropriate "public use natural area." Under this classification habitat manipulations designed to benefit particular species of plants, fish or wildlife are generally prohibited. However, an exception to this management guideline will be made by using forestry practices to facilitate the conversion of the park's existing conifer plantations to indigenous vegetative communities. Methods of harvest will be prescribed by the county forester to promote vigorous, disease and insect free trees. As the plantations mature in ten or more years, they will be converted to the existing northern hardwood association of plants.

The area that was originally "public use natural area" was reclassified as "extensive recreation area." ERA will serve as a buffer between the intensively developed recreation areas and natural or scientific areas. It will also protect some of the scenic attributes of the park.

13. Page 15 -- First paragraph under item 2, last line

As stated in comment 12, WRAC recommends that the Task Force spell out what limited development is proposed or not proposed for the "wild area" category.

Department Response:

None of the development listed on pages 19 and 20 will take place in the area of the park designated as "public use natural area" (formerly "wild area").

14. Page 16 -- Goal

WRAC considers the goal statement for the Peninsula State Park very appropriate. Excellent.

Department Response:

We concur that the property goal as developed by the Task Force is very appropriate for Peninsula.

15. Page 16 -- Property Objectives

WRAC recommends more visibility for the co-partner in the stated goal, education. Let it begin with the itemized column "Ultimate User Days" with a Table Education. The Council further recommends that the topic education be given respectable treatment under the heading VIII, Actions to Accomplish Goals and Objectives.

Department Response:

One item in this column relating to outdoor education is "naturalist programs" with 25,000 ultimate user days per year. Inadvertently an item on the park's outdoor education or naturalist program was omitted from the Management and Policy section. Item number 9 was added on page 19 to give attention to this worthwhile program.

16. Page 17 -- item 6

Not a meaningful statement. The WRAC recommends something of the following nature. "Provide a supportive habitat for nongame and for endangered and threatened species of wildlife." (Some migratory birds are not the only endangered and threatened species).

Department Response:

This statement was revised per the Council's recommendation.

17. Page 17 -- VIII Actions to Accomplish Goals and Objectives

The WRAC endorses the proposal of the park planners to attain the final goal of 3,785.34 acres. The Council was unable to locate the 10.73 acres outside of the property boundary on the ownership chart. The Council on general principles does not favor selling any state-owned lands. We have no objection to trade policy. WRAC also supports tighter control of park access.

Department Response:

The 10.73-acre parcel of state-owned land outside the boundary is shown with a heavy dot pattern on the ownership map. It is proposed that this surplus parcel be sold or used for trading purposes.

18. Pages 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22

Other than the recommendations made by the WRAC in comment 15, the document reads beautifully, the analysis is superb and the projections are appropriate.

Department Response:

We thank the Council for their compliments.

19. The base maps for the charts are excellent. The WRAC sees very little value in the chart labeled Topography. It certainly does not provide any topographic interpretative sensitivity. None of the charts show the cultural features such as different trails and roads thru or in the property. These are essential facts needed to interpret the written word.

Department Response:

We agree that the topography map in Appendix E is rather useless, it will be removed. A map of the park showing the roads, campgrounds, trails, etc., will be placed in the appendix.

Thank you for the Council's thorough review and helpful comments on the Peninsula Master Plan.

cc: J. L. Treichel - P&R/4

→ D. J. Kulhanek - P&R/4

OCT 7 1980



The State of Wisconsin

SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL

October 7, 1980

IN REPLY REFER TO: 2300

Mr. Don Mackie
Bureau of Parks & Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Mackie:

We have reviewed the Peninsula State Park Concept Master Plan and find that we can generally support the goals, objectives and recommended management.

The reference to the two existing scientific areas, last paragraph of page 3 should be updated. The "beech forest" scientific area boundary has been reviewed by the Council and we have recommended a boundary revision to the property manager. This recommendation expands the boundary to include 80 acres of northern mesic forest and the dolomite escarpment along the Lake Michigan shore.

We urge that the existing concept of "protecting the existing resource -- and not increasing the intensive-use capacity of the park" be continued. Development of bridle trails would not be compatible with protecting the existing resource.

Timber cutting in non-developed areas in state parks for aesthetic purposes is a controversial issue and a questionable practice. We have no objections to cutting for safety purposes or aesthetics in intensively developed areas or in pine plantations.

Since a large portion of the park would be placed under "wild area" management guidelines contained in the Master Planning Handbook, additional restrictive guidelines should be added. State parks should not be subjected to timber harvest permitted under usual wild area management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Forest Stearns".

Forest Stearns, Chairman
Scientific Areas Preservation Council

Date: December 12, 1980

File Ref: 2510

To: C. Kabat - RES/4

From: D. J. Mackie 

Subject: SAPC Comments on Peninsula State Park Master Plan

This is the Bureau's response to the review comments of the Scientific Areas Preservation Council on the Peninsula State Park master plan.

The following are the Council's comments item by item and the Department's response.

1. The reference to the two existing scientific areas, last paragraph of page 3, should be updated. The "beech forest" scientific area boundary has been reviewed by the Council and we have recommended a boundary revision to the property manager. This recommendation expands the boundary to include 80 acres of northern mesic forest and the dolomite escarpment along the Lake Michigan shore.

Department Response:

With the assistance of the Scientific Areas Coordinator the information on the two existing scientific areas will be updated.

2. We urge that the existing concept of "protecting the existing resource -- and not increasing the intensive-use capacity of the park" be continued. Development of bridle trails would not be compatible with protecting the existing resource.

Department Response:

We can assure the Council that the above concept will be continued. We also agree that development of bridle trails is not compatible with our mission to protect the resource.

3. Timber cutting in non-developed areas in state parks for aesthetic purposes is a controversial issue and a questionable practice. We have no objections to cutting for safety purposes or aesthetics in intensively developed areas or in pine plantations.

Since a large portion of the park would be placed under "wild area" management guidelines contained in the Master Planning Handbook, additional restrictive guidelines should be added. State parks should not be subjected to timber harvest permitted under usual wild area management.

Department Response:

After reconsidering the "wild area" land use classification for Peninsula, it was decided that the "Public Use Natural Area" classification would be more appropriate. Under this classification habitat manipulations designed to benefit particular species of plants, fish or wildlife are generally prohibited. However, an exception to this management guideline will be made by using forestry practices to facilitate the conversion of the park's existing conifer plantations to indigenous vegetative communities. Methods of harvest will be prescribed by the county forester to promote vigorous, disease and insect free trees. As the plantations mature in ten or more years, they will be converted to the existing northern hardwood association of plants.

Thank you for the Council's review and comments on the Peninsula State Park master plan.

cc: J. L. Treichel - P&R/4
→ D. J. Kulhanek - P&R/4

Appendix 0

Master Plan Input Workshop Summary

Master Plan Input Workshop Summary
Peninsula State Park, January 21, 1980

This meeting was held as a means of gathering input for the Peninsula Master Plan from special interest groups concerned with the park. A variety of organizations were invited to participate including environmental groups, regional and local planning agencies, sports groups and the Door County Chamber of Commerce. A summary of the actions proposed in the rough draft of the plan was mailed along with each invitation. About 70% of the persons or groups that were invited actually attended.

The procedure for discussion was to first read and discuss a management problem or related concern from the plan summary and then present the DNR's proposed solution. Comments offered on each of the Master Plan topics are summarized as follows:

A. Multiple Park Access Points

1. Since people can drive through the park without buying an admission sticker, the DNR could save work hours by not having a sticker salesperson posted at the gate.
2. It was suggested that the DNR could seasonally alternate access use of Highland Road and the Ephraim entrance rather than close either one permanently.
3. The golf course road should be kept open as far as Hill 17 to provide winter access for sledders.
4. DNR should keep golf club house parking lot open for winter snowmobile access -- loading and unloading.

B. Town Roads Inside the Park (no comments except as above)

C. Pressure for New Recreational Modes

1. One person complained that the park discriminated against horses. He claimed that horses didn't damage the park and he asked that former existing bridle trails be reopened.
2. Another person said that she wanted a safe place to ride her horse and that the park with its lower speed limit would be much safer than riding along country roads. She also said that if trailer parking was a problem in the park, horse riders would be happy to park outside the park and ride in.

Riders are becoming increasingly concerned about the cost of transporting horses due to rising fuel costs. It was stated that they did not need to use the park during peak seasons and they didn't need any fancy facilities.

3. Another person said that all the years of horse use in the park didn't do any more damage than the hikers that use the park. She said that they were not asking for any overnight facilities and predicted that horseback use would be light. Perhaps, horse trails could be tried on a temporary basis, using existing facilities of the golf course maintenance area for parking and watering.
4. One person voiced the opinion that developing more recreational facilities (such as horseback riding) would attract more users and that Peninsula is already being overused. It was felt that the park could not support more recreation forms and still keep its integrity. Also mentioned was the presence of too many pets and snowmobiles.

D. Land Acquisition

1. Acquisition of the gas station was opposed on the basis of reduced commerce merely to provide a scenic buffer.
2. It was suggested that the 10.5 acres of land outside the boundary be retained as a hedge against rezoning of adjacent lands to "commercial".
3. The Village of Ephraim expressed an interest in the land across the highway from the golf course entrance as a village park for Ephraim.

E. Traffic Pattern and Flow

1. A person emphasized that aesthetics should be of high priority when designing roads.
2. The State should not restrict bicyclists to the bike trails. Rather, what is needed is a lower speed limit in the park and restrictions on the use of motor homes and large trailers on park roads.
3. "Speed Bumps" were suggested as a means of slowing traffic.

F. Nicolet Bay Area Drainage (no comments)

G. Shore Road Vista Improvement

1. One person favored the concept as stated.
2. Another person suggested that brush be thinned at overlook areas so that visitors could easily see potential dangers. It was also suggested that cyclone fences be installed at overlook areas.
3. It was suggested that areas of Shore Road vistas be thinned, but not have a manicured appearance.
4. Wildflowers were suggested for planting in the area across from the golf course entrance.

H. Management of Conifer Plantations

1. One person objected to seeing forestry practices performed in State parks. Management mistakes can go unnoticed for years and the recent clear-cut performed may be seen as a mistake in the future. Damage from logging practices is too great and the judgement of a forester is not to be trusted for making decisions for State parks.
2. Another person disliked the row configuration of plantations, stating that it didn't appear "natural".
3. Another person suggested that perhaps we should let nature take its course.

I. Sewage Lagoon

1. One person suggested adding another cell if increased capacity becomes necessary.

J. Horseshoe Island

1. It was stated that the rule against prolonged docking was being openly defied.

K. Boat Launches

1. It was stated that indeed, the State facilities could use some improvement. Repairs would reduce the load on the Ephraim facilities.

L. Energy

1. The use of wind power was suggested.

M. Weborg Point

1. It was suggested that camping be eliminated from Weborg Point and the area be converted to day-use. Three other people in the room agreed with this idea.
2. Another person commented that at present 13 campers per day have exclusive use of a prime area that could be enjoyed by more people if it were converted to day-use.
3. It was said that the appearance of large trailers, motor homes, etc., is not aesthetically pleasing to those entering the park and Weborg would be a good area to "phase down" park operations. Also, the noise generated in the campground might have a negative effect on wildlife in the adjacent wetland.

N. Hunting

1. One person simply opposed hunting in the park.
2. Another person stated that deer use the park as a safe haven during the hunting season. A petition had been circulated "years ago" against hunting in the park and most of the local hunters had signed it.
3. It was suggested that DNR biologists take a census of all animals in the park and then take steps to enhance habitat where needed.

O. Golf Course

1. One person said the State should not be competing against private enterprise. Prices should be on the same level.
2. Another person said the State should stay out of free enterprise and suggested that the golf course be leased to private parties to run.

P. Bicycle Traffic

1. No further comment over what was stated in "E. Traffic Flow and Characteristics".

Q. Snowmobiles

1. Two people were concerned over possible trail reductions, but said there had been none recently. They stated that the park trails had been very well maintained in the past two seasons.
2. Another person said that since there were so many more skiers in Door County than snowmobilers on any winter weekend, the DNR should take this fact into consideration when making planning decisions.

R. Signs -- an added topic

A person commented that he was concerned over the proliferation of signs in the park. It was suggested that a handout be given park visitors (DNR now does this) and that one sign telling all the rules and regulations be put up at the entrance, thus reducing the need for numerous others.