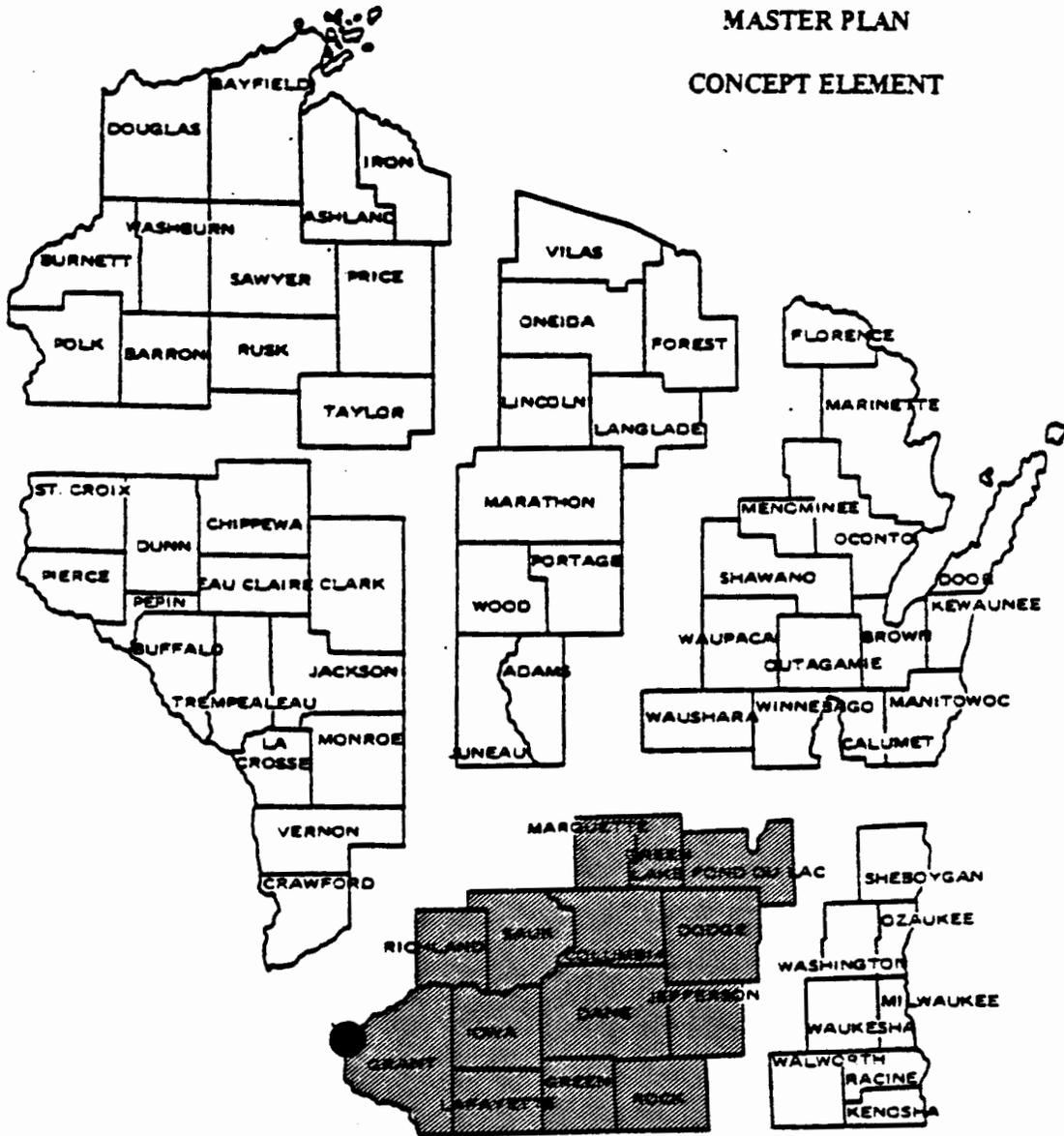


WYALUSING STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

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Approved By: NRB

Date: 1/23/85

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Wyalusing State Park

SECTION I - ACTIONS

A. GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Goal

To preserve and protect unique natural, scenic, historical, and archaeological features of Wyalusing State Park, while providing outdoor recreation and nature interpretation opportunities for 190,000 visitors annually.

Annual Objectives

1. Preserve and maintain special features of the park including the Wyalusing Wilderness Scientific Area (200 acres) and Wyalusing Walnut Forest Scientific Area (140 acres), Indian mounds, evidence of early settlements, scenic river vistas overlooking the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, and other natural features.
2. Provide facilities and programs to interpret both the natural and historic aspects of the park for approximately 26,000 visitors who are expected to utilize the nature center, interpretive displays, self-guided nature trails, and the services of a naturalist.
3. Promote maximum utilization of Wyalusing's indoor group camp facility for environmental education and other organized group activities to accommodate approximately 10,000 campers.
4. Promote a quality recreational experience for approximately 50,000 campers by providing and maintaining both family and outdoor group camping facilities.
5. Provide and maintain day-use recreational facilities including picnic areas, tennis courts, ball fields, and boat access to the Mississippi River for approximately 100,000 visitors.
6. Enhance and maintain scenic vistas and hiking trails to accommodate 130,000 hikers.
7. Accommodate individuals who are handicapped or disadvantaged through the proper design, construction, and management of the park facilities.

Additional Benefits

1. Provide for other recreational and educational uses including bird watching, wildlife observation, turkey calling, gathering nuts, berries, mushrooms, and wild asparagus, photography, and viewing the fall colorama.

2. Benefit non-game species, including endangered or threatened species that may be native or migrate through the area.
3. Through a special management agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provide access to the Mississippi River for canoeists, fishermen, and hunters.
4. Provide opportunities for a quality deer hunting experience, compatible with existing park uses, in order to maintain the deer herd in balance with its range.
5. Maintain wild turkey habitat through proper management.

B. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The management and development alternative recommended for Wyalusing allows a moderate increase in use and development. An estimated 25 percent more park users will be accommodated within a ten-year period from the date the master plan is approved. The management problems addressed in the new master plan are to be studied and solved. Minimal new development and replacement of capital equipment will be necessary to alleviate some of those problems.

In considering any proposed management and development program, the overriding priority is to protect and enhance the natural features of the park.

All areas proposed for development will be examined for the presence of endangered or threatened wild animals and plants. If listed species are found, development will be suspended until the site is evaluated and appropriate protective measures are taken.

Since a complete biological inventory of the entire park does not exist, it is recommended that an inventory be conducted as funds permit, or undertaken through the voluntary efforts of the local university system.

1. Management

a. Vegetative

The vegetative management goal will be to maintain the health, vigor, and diversity of the vegetation in the park's intensive use areas. This will be accomplished by removing individuals, clumps, or stands of trees; pruning and planting. Under most circumstances, natural succession will continue to meet the objective of providing a diversity of tree species and age classes for multiple public resources values.

The following describes the recommended management for the various vegetative types not included in the zone where only natural succession will be permitted.

The pine and tamarack plantations will be managed in order to maintain them in a healthy condition. Pine plantations near the indoor group camp have been marked for a thinning and those near the park office have been pruned and currently need thinning.

A tree planting program will be initiated for the Wisconsin Ridge campground and picnic areas to replace the overmature oaks which are beginning to deteriorate. To provide the amenities of tree cover in the open Homestead campground, larger commercial nursery-type trees and park stock available from the Wilson Nursery will be planted.

The prairie restoration area near the indoor group camp, which was doubled in size in 1984, will be expanded slightly. Management consists of periodic burnings and planting of prairie stock.

An existing four-acre black walnut seed orchard will be expanded by an additional six acres. Another 30-35 acres in the same general area will be established as seed orchard for red oak, white ash, and blister-resistant white pine. The plantings will be at random and will follow the contour of the land. The proposed expansion will be in an out-of-sight lightly used area of the park that was former farm field. Seed produced in the orchards will be used by the Wilson State Nursery.

Twenty-six acres of the former Willard property are presently sharecropped under a three-year agreement. When this agreement expires, the sharecrop area will be reduced to about 17 acres to allow for a buffer strip along the park road. The sharecrop area will benefit deer and wild turkey.

Two forestry/wildlife demonstration areas totaling about 20 acres will be established. Some site preparation before planting will be necessary. The areas will then be planted by school groups under the direction of the forester or forester-ranger and managed for hardwoods intermixed with white pine for aesthetics and wildlife habitat. A species list will be jointly agreed upon by forestry, wildlife, and park's staff. Planting will follow an approved planting plan to be prepared by the park planner. The two demonstration areas will be used primarily by school groups using the indoor group camp.

b. Wildlife

To keep the deer herd in balance with its range, deer hunting in Wyalusing State Park could be allowed during the regular November gun season which consists of three days in Grant County. Current state park deer hunting regulations allows selection of several alternatives for gun deer hunting which include bucks only, bucks with hunter's choice permits, bucks with antlerless deer permits and permits only. Firearms may be restricted to rifles, shotguns, muzzle loaders, handguns, or a combination of the four.

c. Fish

Wyalusing State Park is located at the confluence of the Mississippi and the Wisconsin Rivers and contains state-owned land on both rivers.

The Mississippi River affords a warm water fishery which consists of almost every warm water sport fish (except muskellunge) found in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin River also provides a warm water fishery consisting of smallmouth bass, channel catfish, sauger, white bass, and flathead catfish. Also found are brown trout, muskellunge, paddlefish, panfish, and rough and forage species.

Because of the high bluffs and steep shoreline and the presence of extensive wetlands along both river channels, fishing activity is concentrated within the vicinity of a developed boat launch located on the Mississippi River. Fishing activity occurs at the boat launch all year long, with the ice fishermen utilizing the boat launch parking lot during the winter season.

d. Facility

Wyalusing will continue to be operated as a sub-unit of the Governor Dodge work unit.

It is recommended that a six-month seasonal naturalist be hired at Wyalusing to enhance both the summer naturalist program offered to park visitors and the spring/fall environmental education needs at the indoor group camp.

The indoor group camp is used by organized educational, church and youth groups. The property superintendent will closely monitor use of the indoor group camp and continue to promote this facility to maintain a high level of use.

Although the master plan has not been completed for the Department's Lower Wisconsin River project, there is potential for a trail beginning at the Highway 18 Wisconsin River bridge crossing and extending westward to connect with the park's trail system will be proposed.

2. Development (Figure 3)

Over the next ten years, minimal new development is proposed for Wyalusing State Park.

Existing facilities will be renovated to eliminate and minimize access barriers.

A new park entrance/visitor station is proposed at a location closer to the perimeter of the park rather than near the center. This facility will enable the park staff to collect vehicle admission sticker fees more efficiently, enforce admission sticker regulation, register campers, assist the park visitor, and dispense park information.

To upgrade the Homestead Campground and help distribute camping use in the park, it is recommended that a tree and shrub planting program continue using larger commercial nursery-type trees and the park stock available from the Wilson Nursery. In addition, electric outlets will be installed at a minimum of 30 sites to encourage use by campers needing that type of service.

Extensive improvements are needed for the indoor group camp complex. These include a new camp counselor quarters and infirmary, new appliances and large stoves for the kitchen, replacement of the wall paneling in the lodge building, and installation of new hanging-type ceilings in the lodge and dorms.

To meet the camper demand for showers, a new shower building is proposed for the Wisconsin Ridge Campground. Each of the two campgrounds would then have a shower building.

Other new projects that are anticipated during the life of this master plan include a shelter in the group tent camp area, an outdoor amphitheater, children's playground equipment, a vista for the handicapped, new exhibits for the nature center, outdoor interpretive displays for the Indian mounds, an elevated wood platform for viewing the Indian mounds, and replacement or repair of pit toilets.

Total estimated development cost, based on 1984 cost figures, is \$400,000. All proposed development will be dependent upon available funds and statewide priorities. Additional and/or up-to-date justification will also be required.

3. Land Acquisition (Figure 2)

As of June 30, 1984, state ownership at Wyalusing State Park was 2,654 acres. Two private parcels within the boundary containing approximately 20 acres remain to be purchased. These private parcels will be acquired as they become available from willing sellers per standard DNR land acquisition procedures.

It is proposed that 15 acres of state-owned land on a Wisconsin River island outside the park boundary be transferred to the Department's Lower Wisconsin River Project upon its approval. The transfer of this parcel, plus the 20 remaining acres will result in an acreage goal of 2,659 acres for Wyalusing.

4. Operations Cost and Revenue Potential

The 1984-85 operations cost for Wyalusing is \$146,000. With the 1984 revenue estimated at \$125,000, the percent of revenue to operations cost is about 86 percent.

5. Roads, Entrances, and Private Inholdings

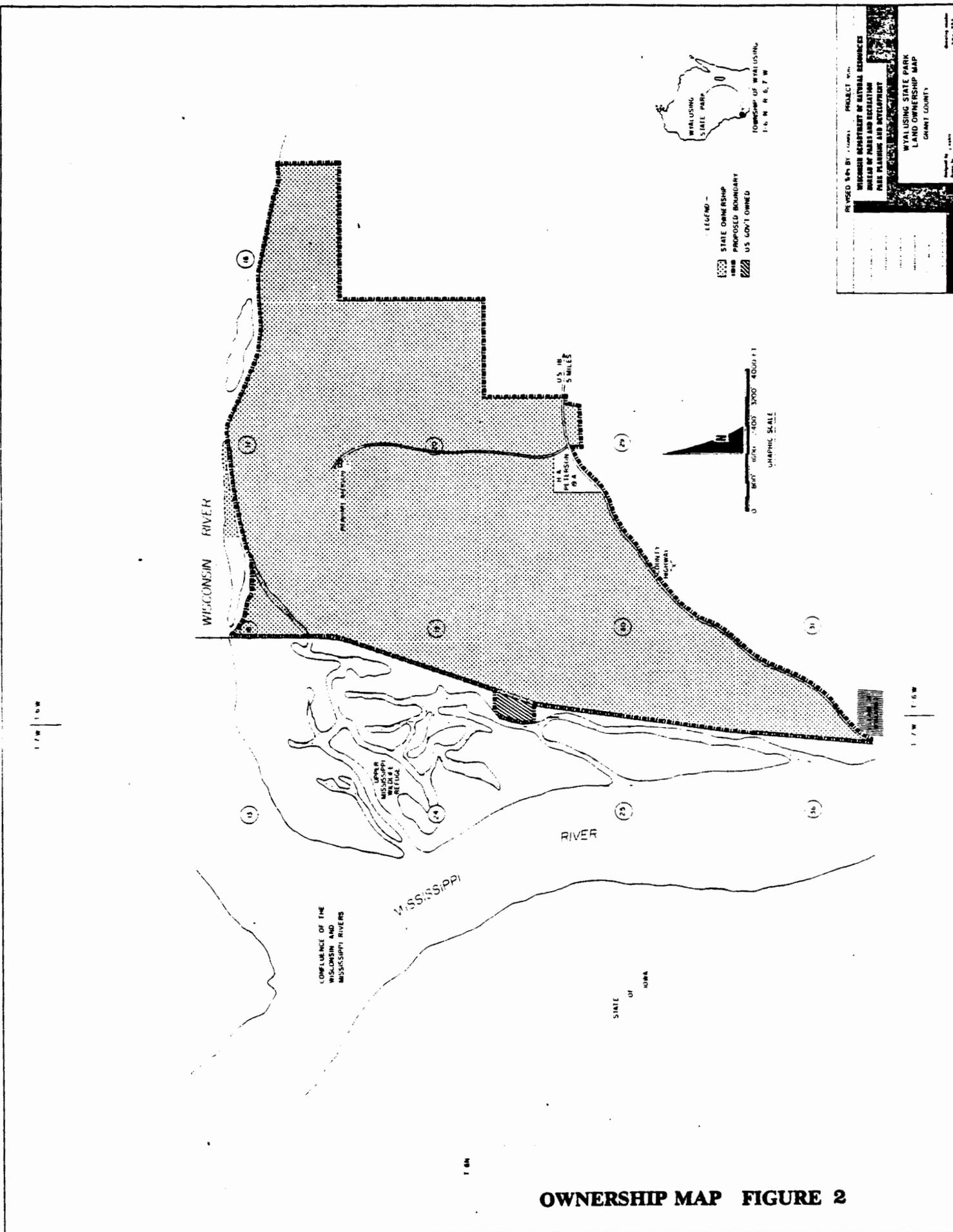
Wyalusing is a one-entrance park with a small one-room contact station lacking adequate work space for park employees and storage area. It is poorly located, making fee collections and vehicle admission sticker enforcement difficult and inefficient.

County Trunk Highway "C" is located in the park, however, negotiations are currently underway with Grant County for eventual state ownership and administration of the local road.

There are only two private inholdings totaling about 20 acres.

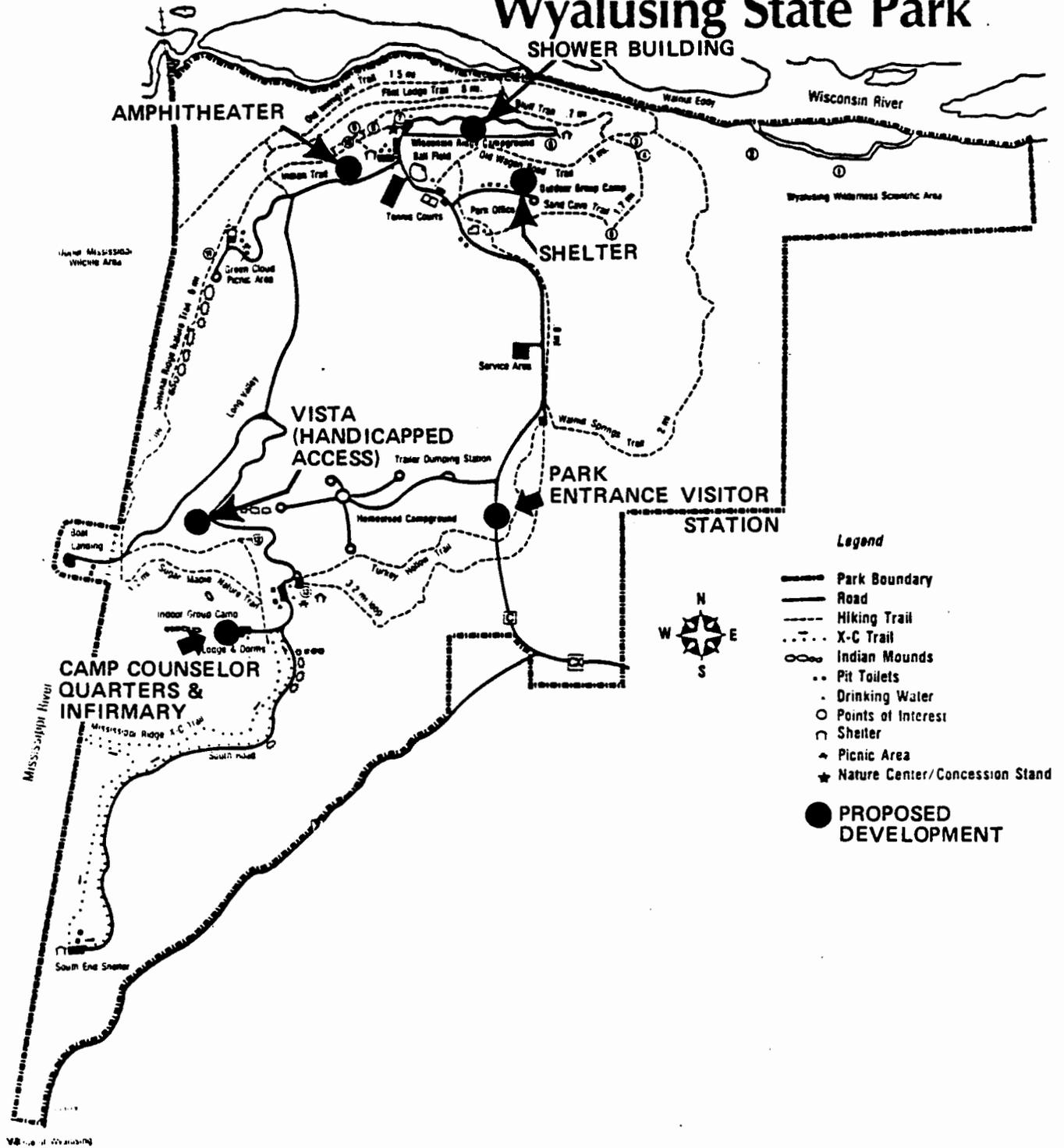
6. Public Involvement in the Master Planning Process

As part of the standard 45-day review process, the master plan was sent to 27 members of the public or organizations for comment. The plan was also presented at a public informational meeting held May 10, 1983 at the Wisconsin Tourist Information Center in Prairie du Chien. Eight citizens attended this meeting. A two-week review period for the environmental assessment written for the master plan gave additional opportunity for public involvement in the planning process.



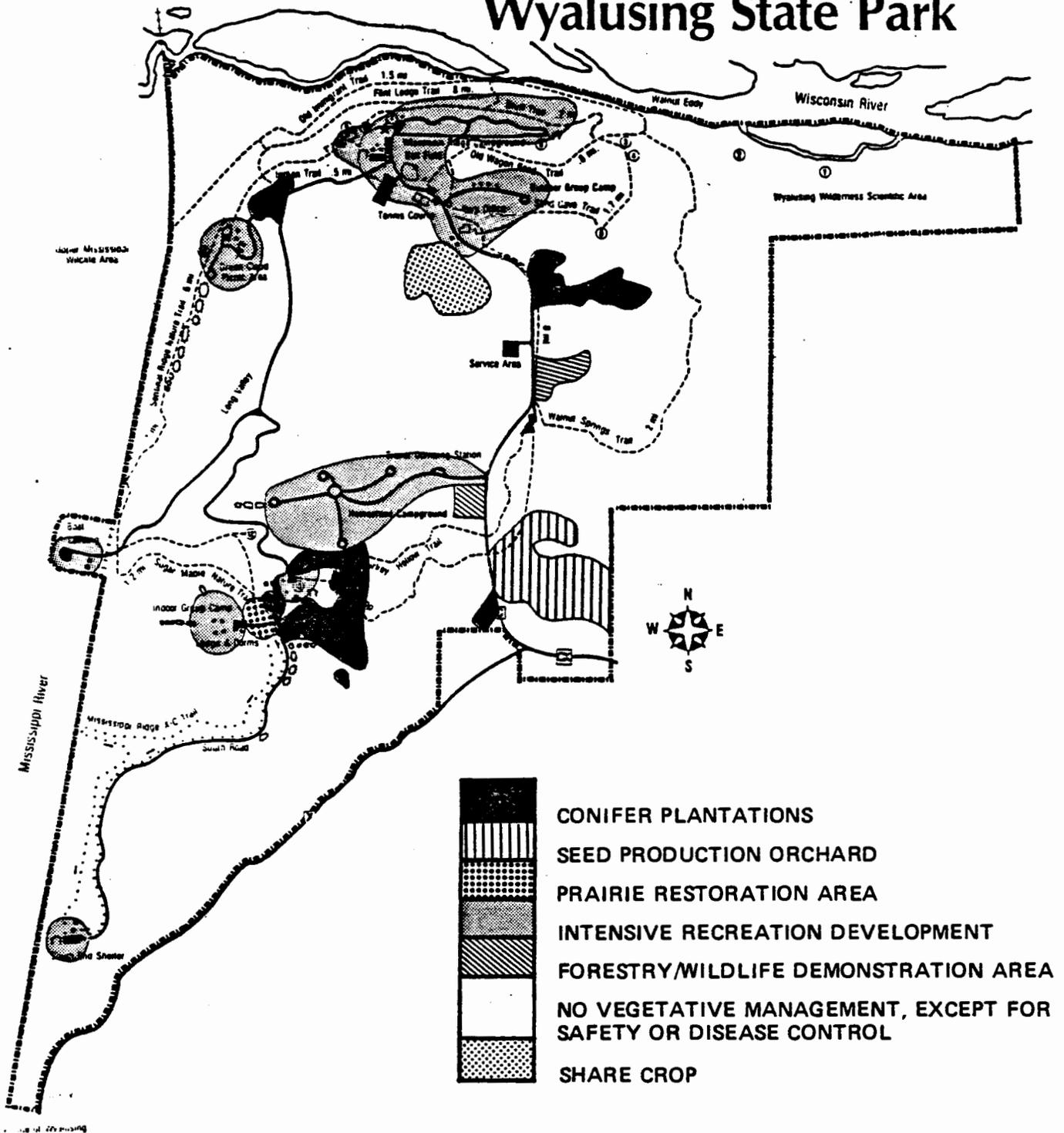
OWNERSHIP MAP FIGURE 2

Wyalusing State Park



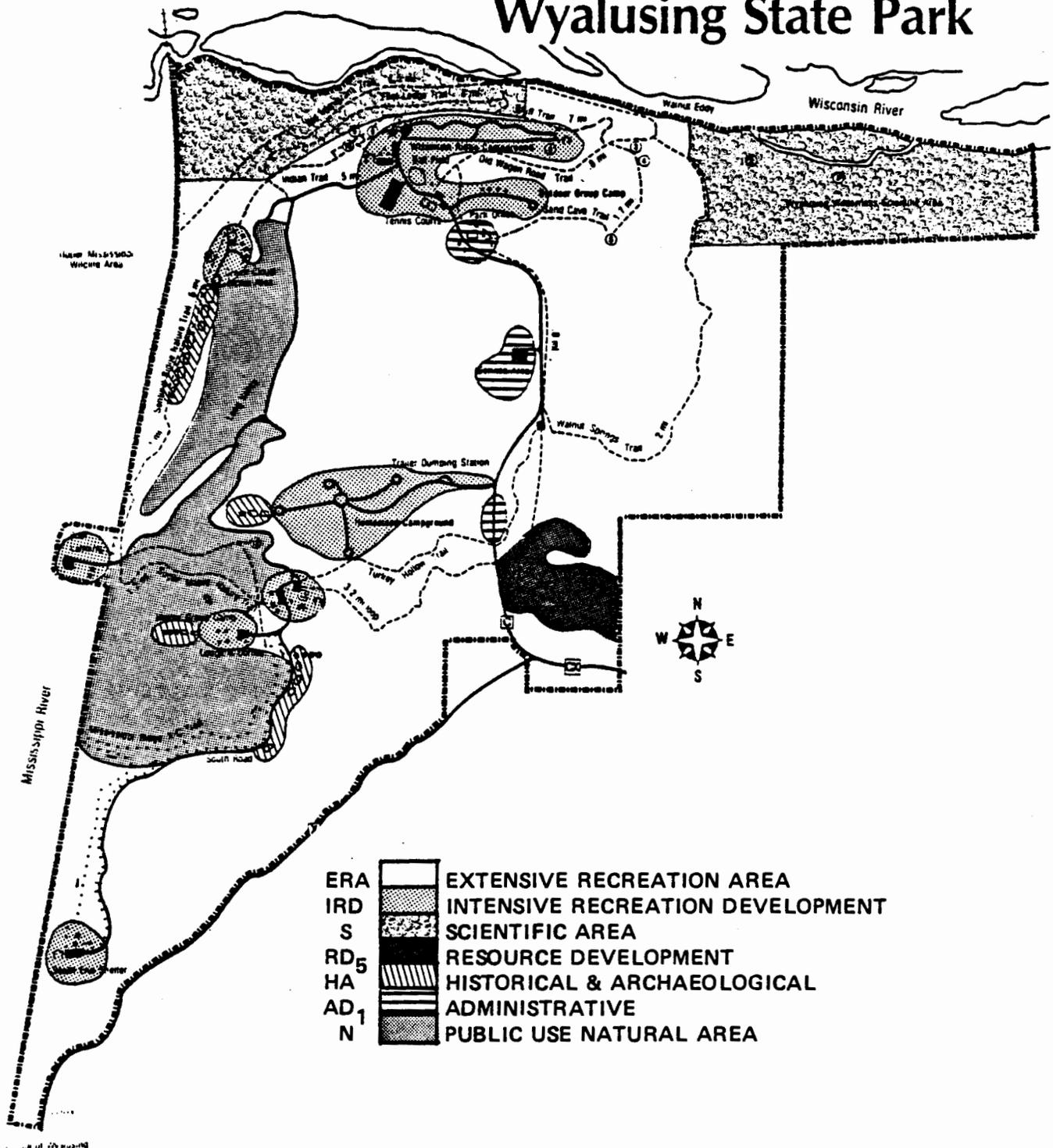
DEVELOPMENT MAP—PRESENT & PROPOSED FIGURE 3

Wyalusing State Park



VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL MAP FIGURE 5

Wyalusing State Park



| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ERA | [White Box] | EXTENSIVE RECREATION AREA |
| IRD | [Grid Pattern Box] | INTENSIVE RECREATION DEVELOPMENT |
| S | [Cross-hatch Pattern Box] | SCIENTIFIC AREA |
| RD ₅ | [Horizontal Line Pattern Box] | RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT |
| HA | [Vertical Line Pattern Box] | HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL |
| AD ₁ | [Diagonal Line Pattern Box] | ADMINISTRATIVE |
| N | [Stippled Pattern Box] | PUBLIC USE NATURAL AREA |

LAND USE CLASSIFICATION MAP FIGURE 6

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Location (Figure 1)

Wyalusing State Park is located in northwestern Grant County, Town of Wyalusing.

2. Regional Context

Major Wisconsin communities nearest Wyalusing are Prairie du Chien (pop. 5,859), Lancaster (pop. 4,076), Fennimore (pop. 2,212), Platteville (pop. 4,923), Dodgeville (pop. 3,458), and Richland Center (pop. 4,923). Dubuque, Iowa (pop. 64,336) is the largest population center relatively close (55 miles) to the park. Madison (pop. 170,616) is about two-hours driving time (100 miles) from Wyalusing.

From the east or west U.S. Highway 18 is the major access route to the park. Secondary routes would be by either State Highways 35 (Great River Road), 27, and 60 which intersect with Highway 18.

Other public recreation areas located in this southwest region of the state are Nelson Dewey, Governor Dodge, and First Capitol-Belmont Mound State Parks; Pecatonica and Military Ridge State Trails; the Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area operated by the Highland-Cobb Park Commission; Grant River Public Use Area owned by the Corps of Engineers; Mound View Park - City of Platteville; and Riverside Park - Village of Muscoda; Wyalusing Recreation Area - Grant County; and Lawler, Lochner and La Riviere Parks - City of Prairie du Chien.

In addition, there are 12 private campgrounds within a 50-mile radius of the park (in Wisconsin) which provide more than 900 campsites.

The Effigy Mounds National Monument, administered by the National Park Service, is located on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River west of Prairie du Chien.

3. History of the Area

Many Indian tribes used the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers as canoe travel routes, and their paths followed the uplands. From nearby evidence, it is likely that about 7,000 years ago Archaic Boreal Indians lived in the park. There is also evidence that the Old Copper Culture Indians passed through here nearly 5,000 years ago. More recently from about 700 A.D. to 1200 A.D., the Effigy Mound Builders, a group of Woodland Indians, built the many mounds seen on the park's Sentinel Ridge. Sauk, Fox, Iowa, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Mascoutens, Menomoni, Chippewa, Miami, Sioux, Kiowa, Dakota, Winnebago, and other tribes also inhabited or visited this area.

Marquette and Joliet recorded seeing the junction of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers in 1673.

4. History of Property Creation

In 1906, the Legislature appointed a committee, headed by Mr. John Nolan, to investigate potential areas throughout Wisconsin for inclusion in what was to become a state park system. Criteria for inclusion in this system required that these areas have outstanding scenic or historical value and were suitable for public recreation as well. The John Nolan Report, published in 1909, recommended four areas to be acquired, including those properties we now know as Peninsula State Park, Devil's Lake State Park, and Wyalusing State Park. The fourth area, in the region of Wisconsin Dells, was never acquired.

Based on that committee's recommendation, acquisition for Wyalusing State Park began in 1911. The initial major land purchase was made in 1912, when Senator Robert Glenn sold 1,491.08 acres to the State of Wisconsin. Commonly referred to as "Glenn Park" at its inception, this land was officially established as "Nelson Dewey State Park" by the Legislature in 1917, honoring the first Governor of Wisconsin. In 1936, Governor Nelson Dewey's home, in nearby Cassville, was also acquired for inclusion in the state park system. At that time, the original Nelson Dewey State Park was re-named "Wyalusing State Park." The name was taken from the small village of Wyalusing which lies at the southernmost boundary of the park, and means "home of the warrior."

5. Existing Management and Development

Wyalusing State Park is classified as a scenic park and is open to the public throughout the year. Existing development includes two family campgrounds - the Wisconsin Ridge Campground (74 units) and the Homestead Campground (58 units), an outdoor group tenting area which can accommodate up to 100 individuals, and a modern indoor group camp capable of housing 108 people. The indoor camp facility consists of four dormitories with bunks, restrooms and showers, plus a lodge containing a fully equipped kitchen, a cafeteria style dining area, and a recreation room.

The park also has 23 acres of picnic area, 3 vistas, 1 boatlanding, 9 hiking trails, 2 self-guiding trails, and 1 cross-country ski trail. In all, 19-1/2 miles of trail are provided for park visitors. Additional support facilities include a park office building, a service building, 5 shelters, a concession stand, a nature center, pit toilets, 1 flush toilet building, and 1 shower building.

Beginning at the park's boat landing, a 5-4/5-mile canoe trail winds among the bottomland islands and provides access to the main channel of the Mississippi River. The trail was established jointly in 1970 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural

Resources. Through a verbal agreement, the Fish and Wildlife Service provides the directional signs and the Wyalusing park crews erect them. Maintenance, consisting mostly of cleaning fallen trees from the route, is also the responsibility of the park. The trail offers an excellent opportunity to view a wide variety of wildlife, especially waterfowl.

Approximately 62 acres of park property are intensively developed and maintained for recreational activities such as camping and picnicking. Scientific areas within the park include the Wyalusing Wilderness Scientific Area (200 acres) and the Wyalusing Walnut Forest Scientific Area (140 acres). Four pine plantations (76 acres), one walnut plantation (4 acres), and one tamarack plantation (2 acres) are currently being managed. In addition, 120 acres of open field area are burned periodically to encourage prairie vegetation. Another 5 acres of land near the indoor group camp is intensively managed as a demonstration prairie area for use by environmental education groups.

In general, primary emphasis is placed on preserving the park's outstanding scenic, archeological, and natural features. Enjoying the scenic beauty of Wyalusing State Park is undoubtedly the most popular visitor activity, with many visitors coming only to view the confluence of the Mississippi River and the Wisconsin River from a scenic overlook area. Camping is also a very popular activity. Hiking, picnicking, nature study, and fishing are secondary pursuits.

Interpretive programs are provided upon request primarily to school groups utilizing the indoor group camp during the spring and fall. In the mid-summer season, a summer naturalist is hired when funds permit.

The park remains open throughout the winter for camping (Wisconsin Ridge campground), ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and other winter activities.

Management of the park is the responsibility of a Park Supervisor IV who is assisted by a Park Supervisor II. Park crews include a full-time Facility Repair Worker III, a full-time Park Ranger II, and an eight-month seasonal Fiscal Clerk II. Approximately 6-8 summer employees are also hired for public contact, law enforcement, naturalist, and maintenance functions. The residence on the former Willard tract is being used as a state residence for the Park Supervisor IV.

A cooperative agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources was signed in 1961, entitling the Department to manage and administer the Glenn Lake boat landing, containing approximately 15 acres, and to collect admission fees for its use. Appendix A is a copy of the agreement.

B. RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

1. Soils

The soil survey of Grant County (done by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and published in 1961) shows that the soils at Wyalusing State Park have developed under hardwood tree cover. The primary soil types in the park are in the Seaton soil series. These soils are deep, silty, and well drained. They occur on slopes varying from 2% to 45%. The silts were blown onto the uplands from the flood plains of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers during or just after the Wisconsin glacial period (about 10,000 years ago). These soils are geographically limited in extent and generally lie within 4 or 5 miles of the river bluffs. The natural fertility of these soils is moderately high, but organic material content is low. These soils range from medium acidity to strong acidity and the erosion hazard ranges from moderate to severe. There are some small pockets of Dubuque silt loam, Favette silt loam, and Lamont fine sandy loam. The river bottom soils are alluvial and the hillsides are classed as steep and stony.

2. Geology

The first seas covered this area in Precambrian time, over one billion years ago. Then came Cambrian seas 600 million years ago, Ordovician seas 500 million years ago, and finally Silurian seas 400 million years ago. This part of Wisconsin has remained above sea level since Silurian times, hence it has undergone about 400 million years of erosion. During this period, the Mississippi-Wisconsin River channels were forming and cutting downward through the layers of sandstone, shale, and limestone formed by the seas' deposits.

3. Water Resources

Forty-nine miles of the Mississippi River averaging 1.3 miles in width serves as the west boundary of Grant County and the boundary between Wisconsin and Iowa. Although the main channel of the river does not directly touch the park, it is readily accessible from the boat landing via a number of connecting sloughs.

The river is a valuable and heavily used recreational resource for activities such as boating, water skiing, swimming, camping, fishing, and hunting. Fish species most commonly taken by anglers are walleye, sauger, catfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, perch, bluegill, and crappie. Locally reared ducks such as mallards, wood ducks, and blue-winged teal provide excellent hunting in the early fall, while the later migrants include canvasback, redhead, scaup, and ringneck ducks.

The Wisconsin River creates much of the north boundary of the park. It begins as a spring fed stream in the Lac View Desert on the northern edge of Vilas County and flows generally in a southward

direction. From the dam at Prairie du Sac in Sauk County to its confluence with the Mississippi River, the river is commonly referred to as the "Lower Wisconsin." This stretch is uninterrupted by dams and offers unique opportunities for high quality recreation in fishing, canoeing, camping, swimming, and hunting. The "Lower Wisconsin" is currently recommended for inclusion as a federal scenic and recreational river.

The Upper Cambrian sandstone is the principal aquifer throughout the county. All spring and groundwaters and most surface waters are hard with a moderate mineral content.

4. Vegetation (Figure 5)

In his book The Vegetation of Wisconsin, An Ordination of Plant Communities published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 1959, John Curtis lists three general forest communities present within the boundaries of Wyalusing State Park. They are the southern lowland hardwood forest, the southern mesic (moist) hardwood forest, and the southern xeric (dry) hardwood.

The southern lowland hardwood forest occupies the alluvial flood plain of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. This forest community is composed of the following tree species: silver maple, American elm, green ash, cottonwood, swamp white oak, basswood, and river birch. Wood nettle and poison ivy are found in abundance in the herbaceous plant component. Cardinal flower is probably the most showy. These areas generally flood at least once each year.

The southern mesic (moist) hardwood forest occurs on north facing hillsides and in cooler moist draws. Sugar maple is the primary tree species with red oak, slippery elm, iron wood, yellow bud hickory, and basswood associated and reproducing in the stands. Butternut, black walnut, white oak, and American elm are also found in the overstory, but these species are not regenerating.

The southern xeric (dry) hardwood forest is predominately the oak forests. They occur on well-drained sites, on south and west hillsides, and on thin soils on hilltops and ridges. Xeric forests frequently adjoin savannas on the dry side and mesic forests on the more protected side with gradual transitions into both. White oak, red oak, and black oak are the primary trees. On the drier sites black cherry, bur oak, pin oak, Chinquapin oak, trembling aspen, and boxelder are found. On the slightly moister sites big tooth aspen occurs with some red maple and other invaders from the mesic community.

Included within the boundaries of Wyalusing State Park are two unique scientific areas, the Wyalusing Walnut Forest and the Wyalusing Hardwoods Forest.

The Wyalusing Walnut Forest is composed of 140 acres of hardwood forest ranging from the Wisconsin River bottoms up to 500 foot bluffs. Two areas have black walnut as the major tree species. Several black walnut trees approach the state record size.

The Wyalusing Hardwood Forest contains 186 acres and was recommended as a scientific area by plant ecologist John Curtis in 1952. In 1966, the area was dedicated in his name as a National Natural Landmark. Five different geological formations and nine distinct forest communities are present. Represented are: a cedar glade; southern mesic forest of maple and basswood; lowland hardwood forest of silver maple, American elm, and green ash; dry forest of Chinquapin oak; dry mesic forest of white oak and red oak; dry mesic forest of red oak and basswood; mixed forest of red oak, black walnut, sugar maple, and honey locust; dry forest of black oak and shagbark hickory; and dry mesic forest of nearly pure oak.

Several tree diseases are active in the park. Many American elms have succumbed to Dutch Elm disease, especially in the river bottoms. Oak wilt is prevalent, and the two lined chestnut borer attacked and killed many oaks after the 1976 drought. White pine blister rust is attacking about 10% of the planted trees and European larch needle cast has shown up in the small larch planting.

With forest succession over the past seventy years, many desirable oak stands have been invaded by sugar maple. Over the next coming decade many of the oak stands will be replaced by sugar maple. This type of succession is normal and reflects the fact that oak-hickory stands are reaching a climax stage in which maple-basswood represent the predominant vegetative overstory species.

No endangered or threatened species of wild plants are known to be present on the property.

5. Wildlife

Landforms in Wyalusing State Park furnish many habitats for plant and animal life. Steep bluffs contrast with level bottomlands bordering the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Deep valleys of the park interior, former agricultural fields, rock outcrops, spring seeps, and extensive forested terrain provide habitats for a variety of animal life.

Species lists for wildlife known or assumed to inhabit the park include 172 birds, 47 mammals, 27 reptiles, and 15 amphibians. These lists serve as a basis for compiling more detailed information on park wildlife.

Endangered and threatened wildlife deserve special consideration in property plans. Bald eagles winter in the area and utilize the park for roosting. Osprey and double-crested cormorants are uncommon transients during spring and fall migration. Peregrine falcons have been reintroduced to the upper Mississippi valley, but it is not known whether they nested on the Wyalusing bluffs. Two endangered fish species, Goldeye and Pallid Shiner, occur in the waters of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers adjoining the park.

The red-shouldered hawk, a threatened species, nests in lowland hardwoods bordering the park. Blanding's turtle is on the Wisconsin list of threatened reptiles but is locally very common. The status of other endangered and threatened reptiles and amphibians is not known for the park.

The major use of the wildlife resource is observation and nature study. The park is situated in the Mississippi flyway and provides excellent viewing opportunities for waterfowl and migrating hawks. The park is listed in Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts, and during spring migration as many as 138 species have been observed in a 24-hour period. Visitors can view an expanding deer herd and perhaps catch a glimpse of elusive wild turkeys, now reestablished in the area.

Wyalusing group camp is a natural setting for wildlife study and interpretive talks. Visiting school groups often use wildlife educational materials in their programs and seasonal park naturalists provide interpretive programs for park visitors.

6. Historical and Archaeological Features (Appendix B)

State Historical Society (SHS) records that, at one time, as many as 105 Indian mounds existed within the park. In addition, 2 Indian garden beds have been reported, and it is very likely that various types of habitation sites (prehistoric camps, villages, etc.) exist in the park.

In 1979, the SHS funded a field survey of Wyalusing State Park for all types of mounds including effigy, linear, and conical forms. The results of the survey are described in a report authored by Robert Petersen.

All development plans will recognize the existence of all known mounds in the park and allow for their preservation. Because of the extremely high archeological sensitivity of the park, the SHS requests that they review all development plans for their potential impact on unexposed archeological sites such as campsites and villages.

7. Land Use Potential (Figure 6)

In accordance with the Department's Land Use Classification System, lands within the park are classified as: Extensive Recreation Area (ERA), Intensive Recreation Development (IRD), Scientific Area (S), Public Use Natural Area (N), Resource Development (RD₅), Historical and Archaeological (HA) and Administrative (AD₁).

Extensive Recreation Area accounts for about 1,797 acres of the park. ERA includes most of the scenic lands outside the more heavily developed areas of the property. They are available to certain forms of recreation like hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature study. These lands contribute toward giving the state park user a quality outdoor experience.

Four hundred and five acres are classified as Public Use Natural Area. This classification protects a relatively undisturbed ecosystem that can be enjoyed by the public for general nature study, education, and aesthetic appreciation, under certain restrictions. Natural physical and biological processes will be allowed to operate with minimum human intervention.

Sixty-two acres devoted to family campgrounds, picnic areas, play areas, boat landing, outdoor group camping area, and indoor group camp are classified as Intensive Recreation Development.

Three hundred and forty acres are classified as Scientific Area. The two established scientific areas at Wyalusing are the Wyalusing Walnut Forest (140 acres) and the Wyalusing Wilderness Area (200 acres). A description of each area appears in Appendix C.

About 45 acres will be utilized as a tree seed orchard for a seed source for the Wilson State Nursery. These acres are classified as Resource Development.

Approximately two acres of park land containing a vast collection of Indian mounds are classified as Historical and Archaeological.

Two areas totaling about three acres in size immediately surrounding the park office/visitor contact station and shop/storage building are classified as Administrative Area.

C. MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

1. Obsolete Park Visitor Contact Station

The contact station is a small 14' x 20' one room building lacking adequate work space and toilets for park employees. It also lacks storage area. It is poorly located in relation to incoming traffic, making fee collections, vehicle admission sticker enforcement, and dispensing of visitor information difficult and inefficient.

2. Uneven Distribution of Camping Use

Among Wyalusing's two family campgrounds the Wisconsin Ridge Campground is the most popular and heavily used because it is wooded, has scenic views, and offers electrical sites. The apparent results of this heavy use are diminishing ground cover, loss of shrubs for screening, hastened deterioration of the trees, serious erosion problems, and an overall decline of the site.

In comparison, the Homestead Campground is usually vacant throughout the week filling only on weekends during the busiest summer months. This "overflow" campground is under-utilized primarily because it lacks trees for shade and has no electrical sites. It has relatively level, widely-spaced campsites that are suitable for most types of camping units, and has a shower building. The potential is there for increased camping use and more revenue.

3. Over-use of Existing Shower Building

The six-stall shower building located in the Homestead Campground are the only showers available to family and outdoor group campers in the park. It is estimated that over 700 campers use the showers on a high use weekend. The result is excessive wear and tear on the facility, long waiting lines for campers, the inconvenience of a camper having to drive from the Wisconsin Ridge Campground or walking two miles, and difficulty for park crews in arranging an acceptable cleaning schedule.

4. Defective Pit Toilets

Eight pit toilets in the park are in need of repair or replacement.

5. Inadequate Indian Mound Interpretation and Restoration

Many of the Indian mounds located within the park's boundary are obscured by vegetation and in need of restoration. Interpretation of the mounds and their historical significance is inadequate.

D. RECREATION NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION

Wyalusing State Park is located in the Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) planning Region 8, which includes Grant, Green, Iowa, LaFayette, and Richland Counties. Seventy percent of the region's population lives in rural areas, however, the region is readily accessible from other highly populated areas of southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

The following are the recreation modes provided at Wyalusing and the 1981 SCORP's supply, demand, and need data relative to that mode.

1. Camping

The 132 campsites at Wyalusing sustained 38,100 family camper days in 1983. There were 2,155 camper days recorded for the group tent camping area and 7,694 camper days for the indoor group camp facility. Wyalusing ranks 6th in total camper days for 1983 of the 37 parks that provide camping.

The Region supplies a total of 1,917 developed campsites. According to SCORP an additional 1,790 campsites will be needed by 1984.

2. Picnicking

Wyalusing has 22.6 acres of developed picnic area distributed among four designated areas.

The 1981 SCORP does not provide supply, demand, and need data for picnicking.

3. Boating

A boat ramp in the park with parking for 33 cars or 16 cars with trailers provides public access to the Mississippi River.

Boat participation is low in Region 8 due to the low amount of surface water area suitable for boating and the small number of developed boat access sites (52). An additional 44 sites are needed in the Region.

4. Canoeing

From the same Mississippi River boat access a marked 5 4/5-mile canoe trail is available for canoeing.

With two percent of the statewide total, Region 8 has the least canoeing recreation occasions of all other Regions except Region 5. SCORP does not indicate a need for additional canoe access sites in the Region.

5. Fishing

For sport fishing the Mississippi and Wisconsin River offer a great variety of fish in relatively abundant numbers. Fishing is primarily done from a boat.

Low fishing participation in Region 8 reflects the lack of surface water area for fishing. Fishing is projected to increase only 2.1 percent over the next five years according to SCORP.

6. Cross-Country Skiing

To help meet demands for ski trails, the three-mile Mississippi Ridge Ski Trail was established in the park.

The anticipated growth in cross-country skiing will result in an increased need for ski trails. By 1984, there will be an estimated need for 360 miles of cross-country ski trails in Region 8.

7. Hiking

Almost 14-1/2 miles of hiking trails are currently available to the hiker at Wyalusing.

SCORP states that Region 8 has no need for additional hiking trails by 1984.

E. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

1. No Change - Status Quo

This alternative would provide that the property continue operating as it is now. No organized attempt would be made to overcome the listed management problems and there would be little change in the degree of resource protection. Any development would be done as it became necessary or desirable, if and when funds become available.

This alternative is not desirable since the property was acquired for recreational purposes in order to meet the needs as identified in state, regional, and outdoor recreation plans.

2. Moderate Increase in Use and Development

This recommended alternative allows a moderate increase in use and development. An estimated 25 percent more park users will be accommodated within a ten-year period from the date the master plan is approved. The problems addressed in the master plan will be studied and solved. To help alleviate some of those problems, minimal new development and equipment replacement would be required.

3. Substantially Increase the Intensity of Park Development

The present amount of park development represents about two percent of the total area of the park. Under this alternative the percentage of developed area would be substantially increased. Since Wyalusing lacks swimming facilities, a swimming pool would be constructed which would increase attendance at Wyalusing. With the increase in park visitation generated by the pool, additional camping facilities with showers, flush toilets, and utility hook-ups could be justified. Additional picnic area with supportive facilities would also be needed. This alternative would be very costly and is considered not feasible at this time.

WHEREAS, the United States, through the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, has acquired certain other lands in fee as a part of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge; and

WHEREAS, the State represents itself as authorized and willing to assume certain responsibilities and costs in providing public access to lands and waters administered by the Bureau within the boundaries of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge in the State of Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual agreements and covenants herein contained it is agreed between the parties hereto as follows:

1. The Bureau hereby agrees to permit the State to develop for public access, those land and water areas within the boundaries of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge, Wisconsin, that are found by mutual inspection and agreement to be suited for such development.

2. The State, recognizing that these lands are administered by the Bureau primarily for fish and wildlife management purposes, will undertake all reasonable measures to insure that these purposes are not endangered by the public access development before, during, or after completion.

3. The State agrees to tender to the Bureau in advance of development at any approved site, proposed construction details, plans, and maps for review, comment and approval by the Bureau.

4. The State agrees that Federal laws, rules, and regulations governing administration of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge will apply whether enforcement is by Federal personnel or by both Federal and State personnel when such regulations are consistent with State regulations.

5. The Bureau agrees to assist in the maintenance of the areas developed, to the extent that funds therefor are available. Bureau personnel will help provide supervision and maintenance by contributing their time as part of their regular duties.

6. At the request of the State to the Bureau, there may be permitted under this Agreement, development of access areas by local governmental bodies under the same conditions set forth in preceding paragraphs.

7. The Bureau retains the right to post the access development areas and administer them as part of, and in conformance with the management program of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge. All identification signs or markers placed on the access development areas must plainly indicate that the development is a cooperative project of the Bureau, State, and Corps.

8. The development activity authorized herein shall be without expense to the Bureau, except as provided in Section 5 above. The exercise of the privileges herein granted shall be subject at all times to the occupation and use by the Corps for purposes of the Mississippi River Navigation Channel Project.

9. The exercise of the privileges herein granted on Corps lands shall be subject to the conditions of the General Plans and

Cooperative Agreements heretofore, or hereinafter, entered into by Corps of Engineers and the Bureau, and the State.

10. This Agreement shall become effective on the date given above. It may be terminated by either party upon written notice to the other, ninety (90) days before the date set for such termination and may be amended, or terminated at any time by mutual agreement of the parties hereto.

11. All communications between the Bureau and the State as to activities under this Cooperative Agreement will be addressed to the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Director, Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison, Wisconsin.

/s/ W. A. Elkins
Acting Regional Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

/s/ S. P. Voigt Director
Wisconsin Conservation Department



RECEIVED
MAY 14 1982
WYALUSING

MAY 19 1982

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

May 12, 1982

Ms. Lynn Gierach
Park Superintendent
Wyalusing State Park
P.O. Box 144
Bagley, Wisconsin 53801

SHSW: 345-82
Re: Wyalusing State Park
Master Plan

Dear Ms. Gierach:

We have received your request for information on archeological sites in Wyalusing State Park and have examined our files for such data. Our records indicate that, at one time, as many as 105 Indian mounds existed within the park. In addition, two Indian garden beds have been reported, and it is very likely that various types of habitation sites (prehistoric camps, villages, etc.) exist in the park.

Of course, the most visible archeological sites in the park are the Indian mounds, many of which are indicated on the park map. In 1979, we funded a field survey of all known effigy mound groups in six counties of southern Wisconsin. Wyalusing State Park was surveyed for all types of mounds, including non-effigy forms such as linears and conicals. The results of the field work at Wyalusing are described in the attached excerpts of the final report of this project. All sites checked in the right hand margin are (or were) located within the park.

We have no maps of the mound groups other than sketch maps of some individual sites and a USGS quadrangle map with site locations shown. The descriptions in the attached report should allow you to locate these sites accurately.

Please note that the author of the attached report, Robert Petersen, is without question the leading authority on the Indian mounds in Wyalusing State Park. We strongly suggest that you contact him if you need further assistance in mapping or interpreting the mounds in the park. Mr. Petersen's address is:

909 Clary Street
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

Appendix B

Ms. Lynn Gierach - 2

May 12, 1982

Development plans should recognize the existence and require the preservation of all known mounds in the park. The extremely high archeological sensitivity of the park also leads us to ask that we review all development plans for their potential impact on unexposed archeological sites such as campsites and villages.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me at (608) 262-2732 or our staff archeologist, William Green (608) 262-2970.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard W. Dexter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Richard W. Dexter
Chief, Compliance Section

RWD:lkr

Enclosure

Wisconsin Scientific Areas Preservation Council
 Scientific or Natural Area Report

Name of Area Wyalusing Walnut Forest Inspection Date 5 November 1970

Quarter SW County Grant Twp. 6N Range 6W Sections 17, 18

Boundaries and acreage of That area in the W 1/2 of 17 and E 1/2 N 3/4 of 18, bounded proposed or established by the slough of the Wisconsin River on the north and the area and buffer cliff summit on the south. 140 m.o.l.

Access to area In Wyalusing State Park: Any of the series of trails that lead down the bluff east or west of the camping area.

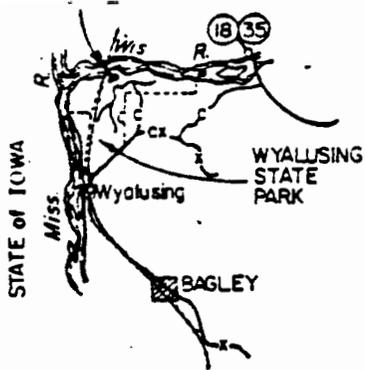
Description of area: Outstanding features, primary and secondary biotic communities dominants, understory and rare species, topography, soils, geology and archeology. The main feature of this area is the excellent black walnut component of the mature forest canopy. Walnuts occupy the rich soil sites with red oak, basswood and elm and lesser numbers of hackberry, butternut and sugar maple on the lower slope of the bluff. Two small areas, indicated on the map, are of almost pure mature walnut. Very little walnut reproduction is present. Further up the slope on drier, thinner soil are white and black oaks. Vertical cliffs at the summit, almost 500 feet above the Wisconsin River, contain a variety of species, including Taxus canadensis (yew). At the base of the north-facing slope lies about 8 acres of floodplain forest composed of silver maple, elm and cottonwood. Forest wildflowers, easily seen from the Immigrant Trail, are wild ginger, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches and Hepatica. Walking ferns are common on the large boulders. There are significant populations of uncommon plants such as Asplenium pycnocarpon, Drvopte Goldiana and Arisaema Dracontium (George Knudsen).

History of land use and limiting factors: _____

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 DNR, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Harvey Peterson, Park Manager.
No future development planned in area. Only management consists of trail maintenance

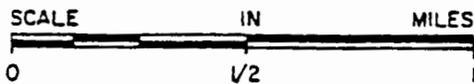
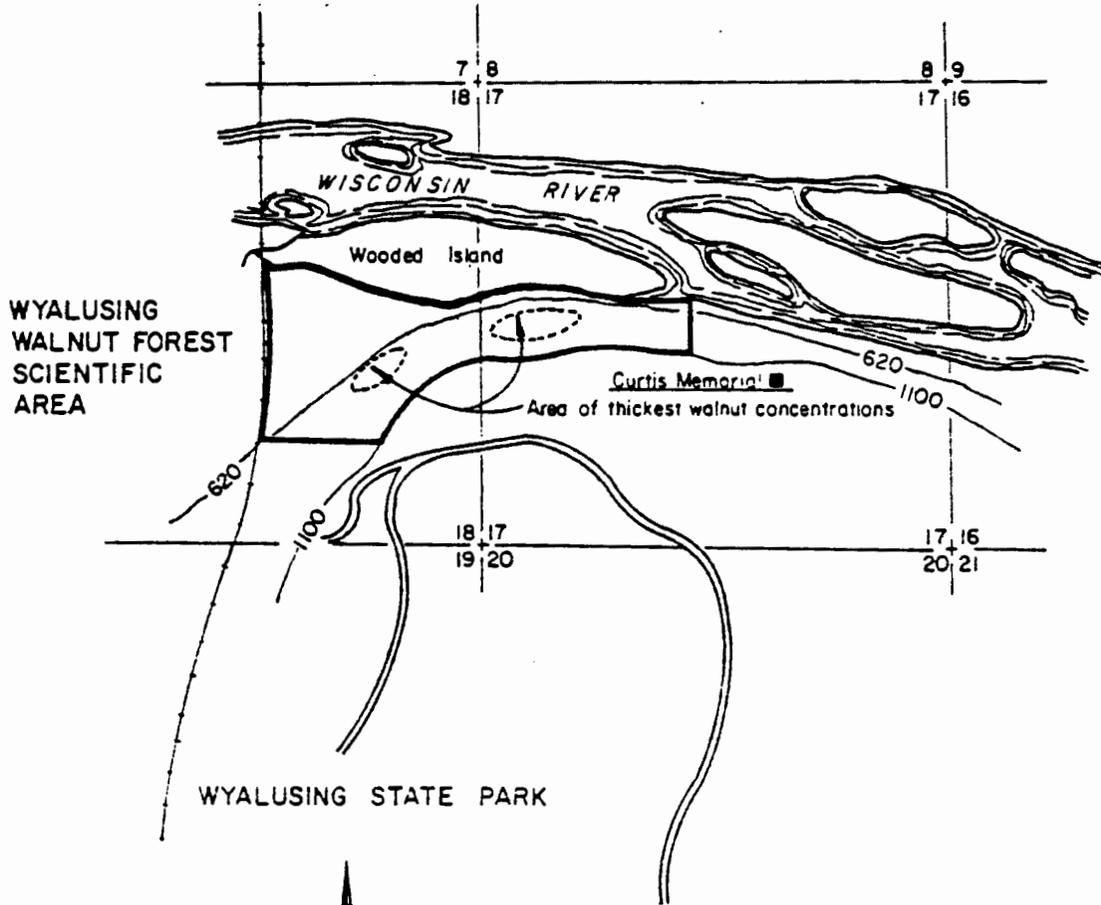
Reference information: person recommending area, references, quadrangle and other publications and date of action taken toward designation of area.

Joe Frank suggested walnut site. See Bagley 7 1/2' quad., and Connaly 7 1/2' quad., and Wyalusing State Park map and folder. Musselman, a preliminary checklist of the vascular flora of Wyalusing state park, mimeo.



LOCATION MAP, GRANT CO.

WYALUSING WALNUT FOREST SCIENTIFIC AREA



Wisconsin Scientific Areas Preservation Council
Scientific or Natural Area Report

Name of Area Wyalusing Wilderness Area Inspection Date August 20, 1968

Quarter SW County Grant Twp. 6N Range 6W Sections 25

Boundaries and acreage of That part of section 10 lying south of the Wisconsin River
proposed or established and east of the Immigrant Trail. Buffer zone of 100 feet
area and buffer. on the east, south and west. Total size 200 acres.

Access to area In far western Grant County within Wyalusing State Park. From the north-
east corner of the camping area, follow park trails east ½ mile. Access
from south, from County C and across private lands, section 21 possible.

Description of area: Outstanding features, primary and secondary biotic communities,
dominants, understory, and rare species. Topography, soils, geology and
archeology. Wyalusing Wilderness Area occupies the steep sides and top of a
ridge just east of the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. The wooded
bluff rises to 400 feet above the Wisconsin River and provides a variety of exposures
over different bedrock. Wet, mesic and xeric forests are present on different
exposures and heights. Quercus muhlenbergii is found on the dry south-facing slope.
Prairie du Chien and Platteville-Galena dolomites and St. Peter sandstone underly
deep loess. Soil types are Fayette and Seaton silt loams. See the attached map
for the distribution of major plant communities, their components and the geological
features. The contributions of Dr. John T. Curtis were memorialized in 1966 when
the area was dedicated to him.

History of land use and limiting factors: _____

Administrative information: Landowner, administrator, existing and proposed manage-
ment. Degree of scientific, educational and recreational use of the area, adjacent
lands, and compatibility. _____

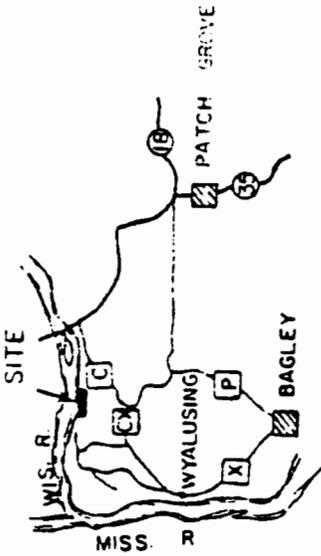
Owned by the Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Harvey
Peterson, Park Manager.

Area receives use by taxonomy, ecology and various biology classes.

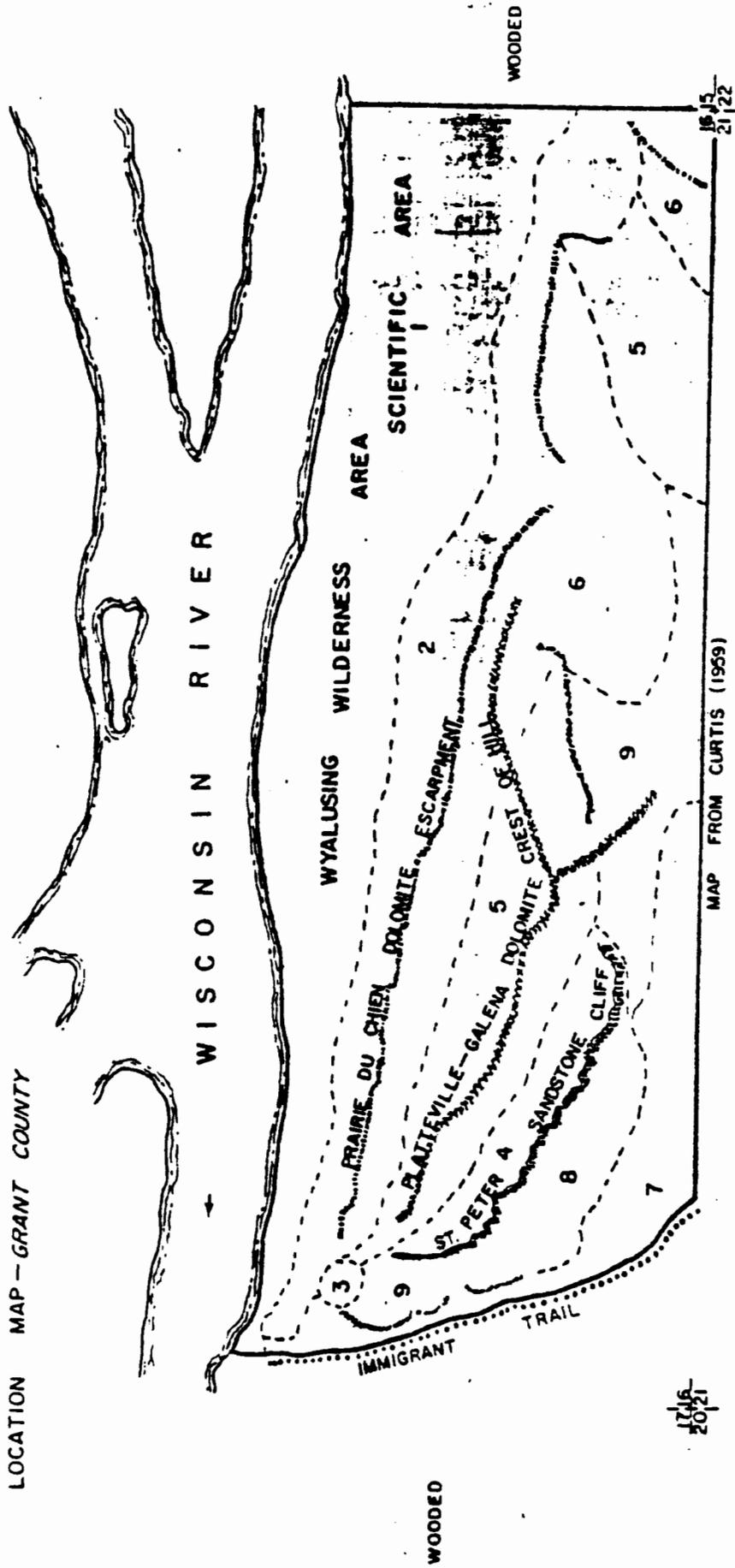
Person recommending area; supporting information and references, including quadrangle,
other maps and publications. Also, dates of action taken toward designation of
area. Established as the 5 th scientific area on May 17, 1952. Chiefly through the
efforts of John T. Curtis. See Bagley 7½' Quadrangle, State Park folder and plant
lists by UW and Musselman.

Report by: Bill Tans Date: March 1971

WYALUSING WILDERNESS AREA SCIENTIFIC AREA



LOCATION MAP - GRANT COUNTY



LEGEND

- 1. LOWLAND HARDWOOD FOREST
- 2. SOUTHERN MESIC FOREST
- 3. CEDAR GLADE
- 4. DRY FOREST WITH CHINOJAPIN OAK
- 5. DRY MESIC FOREST WITH BASSWOOD & RED OAK
- 6. MIXED HARDWOODS
- 7. DRY FOREST WITH BLACK OAK & HICKORY
- 8. DRY MESIC FOREST, RED OAK
- 9. DRY MESIC FOREST WITH CHINOJAPIN OAK



The State of Wisconsin

SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Box 7921

Madison, Wisconsin 53707

IN REPLY REFER TO: _____

June 2, 1983

Mr. David Weizenicker
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Dave:

We have completed our review of the Wyalusing State Park Master Plan Concept Element. The plan is well written and in most respects is without fault and provides management objectives which are consistent with the parks high quality natural resource base. The one exception is the proposed vegetative management described in part on page 2 of the plan; for example, "Wyalusing's vegetative management objectives are aesthetics and stand perpetuation. Applied silviculture will be compatible with the objectives of state parks as directed by state statutes, Department policy and manual codes."

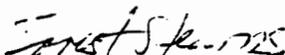
While some silvicultural practices such as plantation thinning, landscaping of developed areas, maintenance of tree seed orchards, and safety hazard reduction along trails is compatible with state park objective; we question timber cutting to maintain particular species or types. We have been told that the Departments' forest management recommendation includes rather extensive timber harvest of old-growth oak within the extensive recreation zone attempting to preserve the "oak" type and prevent natural conversion to a more mesic sugar maple forest. Since the usual method of harvest for oak is by commercial clear-cut likely followed by seeding or planting of oak, the aesthetic impact will be difficult to ameliorate. However, the Councils' major concern is not aesthetics but maintenance of natural plant communities. We believe that these oak stands originating some 60 - 120 years ago are of high quality and may or may not be converting to a sugar maple forest slowly, over the next 50 - 100 years. The natural processes and succession controlling these stands is desirable in state parks and worthy of maintenance. We recommend that timber harvest in the park be limited to removal of safety hazards in developed areas and thinning of plantations.

The policy of commercial timber harvest in state parks will in our opinion be highly controversial and not worth the small economic return. We suggest that the Department conduct a full scale interdisciplinary review of this policy involving forestry, wildlife and ecological views with public hearings. More specifically the two established scientific areas in the park are adequately described. The flood plain forest on the island adjoining the Wyalusing Walnut Scientific Area (Comp. 2, Stand R-2) is of high quality. If it is transferred from park management to the Lower Wisconsin River project as proposed, a recommendation for preservation as scientific area or public use natural area should be considered.

The Council also wishes to recommend a public use natural area designation for the area surrounding the indoor group camp and including the nature trail. The land use designation in Figure 3 is not clear, but the forest compartment maps provide convenient boundaries encompassing an area of some 300 acres. (Compartment 5, Stands 3, 4, 5, 6, 8). This area contains an excellent southern dry-mesic forest type of red oak, white oak, and associated species with high scenic and educational values for the public.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and comment on this master plan.

Cordially,



Forest Stearns
Chairman

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: June 1, 1983

File Ref: 1430

To: Dave Weizenicker PR/4

From: Dick Lindberg FOR/4

RL

Subject: Wild Resources Advisory Council Master Plan Comments

Bill Schultheis, WRAC Chairman, requested that I pass along the following comments on the master plan for Wyalusing State Park.

1. The plan expressed both the objectiveness and appropriateness for a property with unique qualities.
2. There was no evidence that wild resource potentials were evaluated during the planning process, particularly natural area potentials.
3. Adequate discussions of plant and animal communities were provided. However, these would have been more meaningful had they been supported by plant and animal inventories.
4. The Council would prefer to see the adoption of management prescriptions that would somehow combine the values of management alternatives no. 1 and 2.
5. A greater emphasis on archaeological features was anticipated than was provided. These are recognized as being among the most significant (unique) of all the park's features.

CORRESPONDENCE / MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DATE: December 11, 1984

In Reply Refer To: 2510

TO: Cliff Germain - ER/4

FROM: David Weizenicker - P&R/4

SUBJECT: SAPC Comments on Wyalusing State Park Master Plan

This is in response to the Council's comments on the Wyalusing Master Plan.

In response to the Council's concern with vegetative management proposed for Wyalusing, this section was rewritten, limiting vegetative management to certain areas. Including the park's intensively-developed recreation areas, some type of vegetative management is recommended for the pine and tamarack plantations, the prairie restoration area, a small share-cropped area, and a tree-seed orchard. Also, about 20 acres will be prepared, planted with hardwoods, intermixed with white pine, and managed as a forestry/wildlife demonstration area primarily for school groups. A major portion of the park is now designated as no vegetative management except for safety or disease control (Fig. 5).

In addition, at the recommendation of the Council, an area encompassing slightly over 400 acres has been designated as public use natural area (Fig. 6).

We thank the Council for the thorough review of the Wyalusing Master Plan.

DK:sjh:3439L

cc: J. Treichel - P&R/4
D. Kulhanek - P&R/4 ←
D. Morrissette - Nevin

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DATE: December 11, 1984

In Reply Refer To: 2510

TO: Richard Linberg - FOR/4

FROM: David Weizenicker

SUBJECT: WRAC Comments on Wyalusing State Park Master Plan

This is in response to the Council's comments on the Wyalusing Master Plan.

Comment #1: The plan expressed both the objectiveness and appropriateness for a property with unique qualities.

Department Response: So noted.

Comment #2: There was no evidence that wild resource potentials were evaluated during the planning process, particularly natural area potentials.

Department Response: Natural area potential was further evaluated at the recommendation of both advisory councils and an area encompassing slightly over 400 acres has been designated as public use natural area.

Comment #3: Adequate discussions of plant and animal communities were provided. However, these would have been more meaningful had they been supported by plant and animal inventories.

Department Response: In reply, however, the plan does recommend that an inventory be conducted as funds permit, or undertaken through the voluntary efforts of the local university system.

Comment #4: The Council would prefer to see the adoption of management prescriptions that would somehow combine the values of management alternatives #1 and #2.

Department Response: To address the listed management problems, the task force recommended a management and development alternative that would allow for a moderate increase in use and development. Under this alternative, the property will have the improved capability to meet the recreational and educational needs of the public for the next ten years.

Comment #5: A greater emphasis on an archaeological feature was anticipated than was provided. These are recognized as being among the most significant (unique) of all the park's features.

TO: Richard Lindberg - December 17, 1983

2.

Department Response: The final draft addresses the need to protect and interpret the unique collection of Indian mounds at Wyalusing, recommending the development of outdoor interpretive displays. A seasonal naturalist position is also requested.

We thank the Council for their constructive comments.

DK:sjh:3439L

cc: J. Treichel - P&R/4
D. Kulhanek - P&R/4 ←
D. Morrisette - Nevin

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Note: (This revision combines Form 1600-1 and 1600-2 into one form.)

Bureau of Parks and Recreation
DISTRICT OR BUREAU

DOCKET NUMBER

TYPE LIST DESIGNATION(S)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
(Reference Information Sources Utilized)

Applicant: Department of Natural Resources

Title of Proposal: Wyalusing State Park Master Plan

Location: County Grant
 Township 6 North, Range 6 West
 Section(s) 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30 and 31
 Political Town Wyalusing

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. General Description (brief overview)

The following is a summary of the master plan's recommended management and development proposals. A tree planting program will be initiated for the park's intensive use areas to replace deteriorating over-mature trees and to provide the amenities of tree cover in open use areas. A 40-acre addition to the black walnut seed orchard is also proposed. New buildings proposed would include a park entrance visitor station, camp counselor quarters/infirmarium for the indoor group camp complex, shower building for the Wisconsin Ridge campground, and a shelter in the group tent camp area. Other projects consist of kitchen, lodge, and dormitory improvements for the indoor group camp, replacing or repairing defective pit toilets, constructing an amphitheater, installing children's playground equipment, and installing electric outlets in the Homestead campground. No change in the park boundary is proposed.

2. Purpose and Need (include history and background as appropriate)

To make available facilities and areas for outdoor recreational use in such a manner as to utilize, protect, and enhance the natural assets of the area.

3. Authorities and Approvals (list statutory authority and other relevant local, state and federal permits or approvals required)

Chapter 27.01 of Wisconsin Statutes (Public Parks and Recreation). Building designs must meet state and local requirements for public buildings and zoning regulations. Natural Resources Board approval of the master plan is necessary.

4. Estimated Cost and Funding Source

The estimated \$455,000 development cost would come from Outdoor Recreation Act Program (ORAP) bonding and formula funds. The work would be done by both contract and force account as funds and priorities permit.

PROPOSED PHYSICAL CHANGES

5. Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources (include relevant quantities - sq. ft., cu. yard., etc.)

Approximately 300 cubic yards of dirt would be excavated for the construction of the park entrance visitor station (PEVS), camp counselor quarters, shower building and shelter. Individual septic tanks and drain fields would be required for the PEVS toilets and the shower building. Actual size will be dependent on soil conditions. A new well may be needed for the PEVS depending on the recommendation of an engineer, or it may be possible to tie in to the service area well. There may be additional excavation if some of the defective vault toilets are replaced with new structures if it is not feasible to repair them. Road work for the park entrance visitor station layout will require some cut and fill. The road and parking area will be paved. Some of the proposed projects may require tree clearing, but it is expected to be very minimal.

6. Manipulation of Aquatic Resources (include relevant quantities - cfs., acre feet, MGD, etc.)

None

7. Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures

The attached amendment provides a supplemental description of the following development proposals including their potential physical impacts on the environment.

- a. Park entrance visitor station
- b. Camp counselor quarters/infirmary
- c. Shower building
- d. Shelter
- e. Amphitheater
- f. Replacement pit-type toilets (if required)
- g. Electric camper outlets (Homestead campground)

8. Emissions and Discharges

The planned construction would create a potential for dust. Emissions would be caused by motor vehicles driven by visitors, for park maintenance, and for construction.

9. Other Changes

The red and white pine plantations planted in the 1940's and 60's will be thinned as recommended by the forester. For maintenance purposes, the 5-acre demonstration prairie will be burned periodically. Site preparation for the 40-acre black walnut seed orchard may require a slight amount of tree and brush removal.

10. Attach Maps, Plans and Other Descriptive Material as Appropriate (list)

- a. Location map
- b. Ownership map
- c. Development map

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Information Based On (check all that apply):

- Literature/correspondence
- Personal Contacts (list in item 31)
- Field Analysis By: Author, Other (list in item 31)
- Past Experience With Site By: Author Other (list in item 31)

11. Physical (topography - soils - water - air - wetland amounts and types)

Wyalusing's land forms consist of steep 500 foot high bluffs rising above the bottomlands of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, deep forested valleys in the park's interior, open ridge tops that were former farm fields, rock outcrops, and spring seeps. The primary soil types in the park are in the Seaton soil series. Known as wind deposited loess soils, they are deep, silty, well-drained and occur on slopes varying from 2% to 45%. There are also some small pockets of Dubuque silt loam, Fayette silt loam, and Lamont fine sandy loam. The river bottom soils are alluvial.

12. Biological

a. Flora

Southern lowland hardwood forest composed of silver maple, American elm, green ash, cottonwood, swamp white oak, basswood, and river birch occupies the alluvial flood plain of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. Wood nettle and poison ivy is abundant in these areas. North facing slopes and cool moist draws support the southern mesic hardwood forest community. Sugar maple is the primary tree species of this community along with red oak, slippery elm, iron wood, yellow bud hickory, and basswood. The southern xeric hardwood forest is also represented on the well-drained, thin soiled, south and west facing slopes and ridges. White oak, red oak, and black oak are the primary species of this forest community.

Four pine plantations totalling 76 acres, one 4-acre walnut plantation, and one 2-acre tamarack plantation are currently being managed.

There is a five acre demonstration prairie located near the indoor group camp.

b. Fauna

The park supports a wide variety of animal life, with deer, fox, squirrel, and raccoon in the uplands, and beaver, otter, and mink in the floodplain areas. As many as 284 bird species nest in the park or are seen during their migration. Bald eagles winter in the area and utilize the park for roosting. The red-shouldered hawk, a threatened species, nests in lowland hardwoods bordering the park. Blanding's turtle is on the Wisconsin list of threatened reptiles but is locally very common. Wild turkeys have been reestablished in the area and can be seen in the park.

13. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups, and zoning if applicable)

Wyalusing is used for many types of summer and winter outdoor recreational activities. Annual attendance is over 150,000 visitations with over 50,000 camper days. Visitors to the park may contribute to the local economy. Proposed developments and improvements may also have a beneficial impact on the local economy.

This action will not affect or displace any ethnic group or native American. New facilities will be designed to accommodate the handicapped. Additional educational opportunities would be provided with the construction of the amphitheater.

14. Other Special Resources (e.g., archaeological, historical, endangered/threatened species, scientific areas, natural areas)

At one time, according to the State Historical Society, as many as 105 Indian mounds existed within the park. Scientific areas within the park include the Wyalusing Wilderness Scientific Area (200 acres) and the Wyalusing Walnut Forest Scientific Area (140 acres).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES (probable adverse and beneficial impacts including indirect and secondary impacts)

15. Physical (include visual if applicable)

During construction, fuel will be consumed and minor air pollution may occur from exhaust emissions, smoke, and dust. Some noise may be evident. Slight alterations of the topography may take place during construction of the park entrance visitor station, camp counselor quarters/informary, shower building, shelter, amphitheater and replacement pit-type toilets. Minor temporary erosion could occur. Installing the electrical outlets in the campground will cause a temporary disturbance to the site during the placement of the underground wiring.

The proposed developments will have a negligible effect on drainage. There would be no impact to energy sources.

16. Biological

Approximately 1 1/2 to 2 acres of land will be permanently utilized for roadway, parking area, and a building site for the proposed park entrance visitor station. An additional 1/2 acre of land will be utilized for the other proposed building projects. Disturbed area around the construction sites will be regraded, top soiled, and planted to grass cover. Some fauna would continue to be displaced by park usage. Some secondary box elder growth will be removed for construction of the park entrance visitor station. Other tree clearing will be very minimal.

17. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups and zoning if applicable)

Public use of the park is expected to increase due to improved facilities. Improvements to the Homestead campground, such as tree planting and electrical outlets, are needed to attract campers to better distribute the park's camping use. With an increase in park visitation there should also be an increase in economic benefits to the surrounding communities. State park admission sticker sales and camper receipts should show an increase.

Studies indicate that state-owned land is not an economic burden to local governmental units due to state payments in lieu of taxes and increased school aids in many cases.

18. Other Special Resources (e.g., archaeological, historical, endangered/threatened species, scientific areas, natural areas)

All development plans will recognize the existence of all known mounds in the park and allow for their preservation. Because of the extremely high archaeological sensitivity of the park, the State Historical Society requests that they review all development plans for their potential impact on unexposed archaeological sites such as campsites and villages.

Management of the two scientific areas will be consistent with the Wild Resources Policy guidelines.

19. Probable Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided

Increased presence of man within the park may mean some interference with wildlife habitat and plant damage. The construction stage would expose some soil to water and wind erosion. Some dirt and noise would also be created during construction. Air pollution emissions to the atmosphere would increase slightly due to increased auto traffic into and out of the area. Some minor grading will take place around construction sites, however; this will only minimally alter existing topography and drainage patterns. Some soil erosion could occur at construction sites, however; this would be minimized through the use of appropriate erosion control techniques. Increased use could possibly increase the need for public services such as police and fire protection, as well as medical attention. Gasoline and other fuels will be consumed by people coming to the park, as well as by maintenance vehicles. Traffic will increase on the county highway leading to the property; however, this increase is so minimal, it is not expected to have any great effect on traffic volume.

ALTERNATIVES (no action - enlarge - reduce - modify - other locations and/or methods)

20. Identify, describe, and discuss feasible alternatives to the proposed action and their impacts. Give particular attention to alternatives which might avoid some or all adverse environmental effects.

a. No Change - Status Quo

This alternative would provide that the property continue operating as it is now. No organized attempt would be made to overcome the listed management problems and there would be little change in the degree of resource protection. Any development would be done as it became necessary or desirable, if and when funds become available.

b. Moderate Increase in Use and Development

Within a period of about ten years from the approved date of this master plan, an additional 40,000 visitors per year would be accommodated at Wyalusing for an annual attendance of 200,000. This represents about a 25 percent increase in visitation. The problems addressed in the master plan would be studied and solved. To help alleviate some of those problems, minimal new development and equipment replacement would be required.

c. Substantially Increase the Intensity of Park Development

The present amount of park development represents about two percent of the total area of the park. Under this alternative the percentage of developed area would be substantially increased. Since Wyalusing lacks swimming facilities, a swimming pool would be constructed which would increase attendance at Wyalusing. With the increase in park visitation generated by the pool, additional camping facilities with showers, flush toilets, and utility hook-ups could be justified. Additional picnic area with supportive facilities would also be needed.

EVALUATION (Discuss each category. Attach additional sheets and other pertinent information if necessary.)

21. Secondary Effects: As a result of this action, is it likely that other events or actions will happen that may significantly affect the environment? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 15-18 as appropriate.

Increased park use may result from the proposed changes but should not have a significant effect on the environment.

22. New Environmental Effect: Does the action alter the environment so a new physical, biological or socio-economic environment would exist? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 5-10 or 15-18 as appropriate.

No, the proposed action is minor in scope and would not alter the existing environment.

23. Geographically Scarce: Are the existing environmental features that would be affected by the proposed action scarce, either locally or statewide? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 15-18 as appropriate.

No, the Indian mounds and scientific areas mentioned under item #14 will not be affected by the proposed action.

24. Precedent: Does the action and its effect(s) require a decision which would influence future decisions? Describe.

No, the proposed campground improvements, park entrance visitor station and other assorted projects are typical state park projects.

25. Controversy: Discuss and describe concerns which indicate a serious controversy or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

None

26. Consistency With Plans: Does the action conflict with local or agency zoning or with official agency plans or policy of local, state or federal government (e.g., NR 1.95)? If so, how? Refer to applicable comments in item 31.

This action does not conflict with agency plans or other local state and federal plans. The proposals are consistent with statutory authority and Natural Board policies.

27. Cumulative Impacts: While the action by itself may be limited in scope, would repeated actions of this type result in major or significant impacts to the environment?

Not expected to be significant. No additional actions planned within the 10-year life of the master plan.

28. Foreclose Future Options: Is the action irreversible? Will it commit a resource (e.g., energy, habitat, historical features) for the foreseeable future?

No, the buildings and utilities, roadwork, and electrical outlets could all be removed. Intensively developed sites could revert through succession to wooded upland.

29. Socio-cultural Impacts: Will action result in direct or indirect impacts on ethnic or cultural groups or alter social patterns?

No

Yes, refer to item 17.

30. Other:

None

LIST OF AGENCIES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROJECT (Include DNR personnel and Title)

| <u>31.</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Contact</u> | <u>Comment Summary</u> |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| | 1/25/83 | Jerry Vande Hei | Vegetative management review |
| | 1/26/83 | Larry Schmitt, Forester | Forest reconnaissance printouts |
| | 3/30/83 | Dick Camp, Wilson Nursery | Info. on black walnut seed orchard |
| | 12/82 | Jim Buchholz | Land use classifications, ownership correction |

RECOMMENDATION

EIS Not Required..... X

Analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department on this project.

Refer to Office of the Secretary..... _____

Major and Significant Action: Prepare EIS..... _____

Request EIR..... _____

Additional factors, if any, affecting the evaluator's recommendation:

None

| | |
|---|---------|
| | DATE |
| SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR <i>James Sullivan</i> | 4/25/83 |
| NOTED AREA SUPERVISOR OR BUREAU DIRECTOR | DATE |
| <i>James D. Weisenburger</i> | 4/25/83 |

Number of responses to public notice _____

Public response log attached? _____

Master Plan Wyalusing State Park

Grant #1371

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OR DIRECTOR OF BEI (OR DESIGNEE)

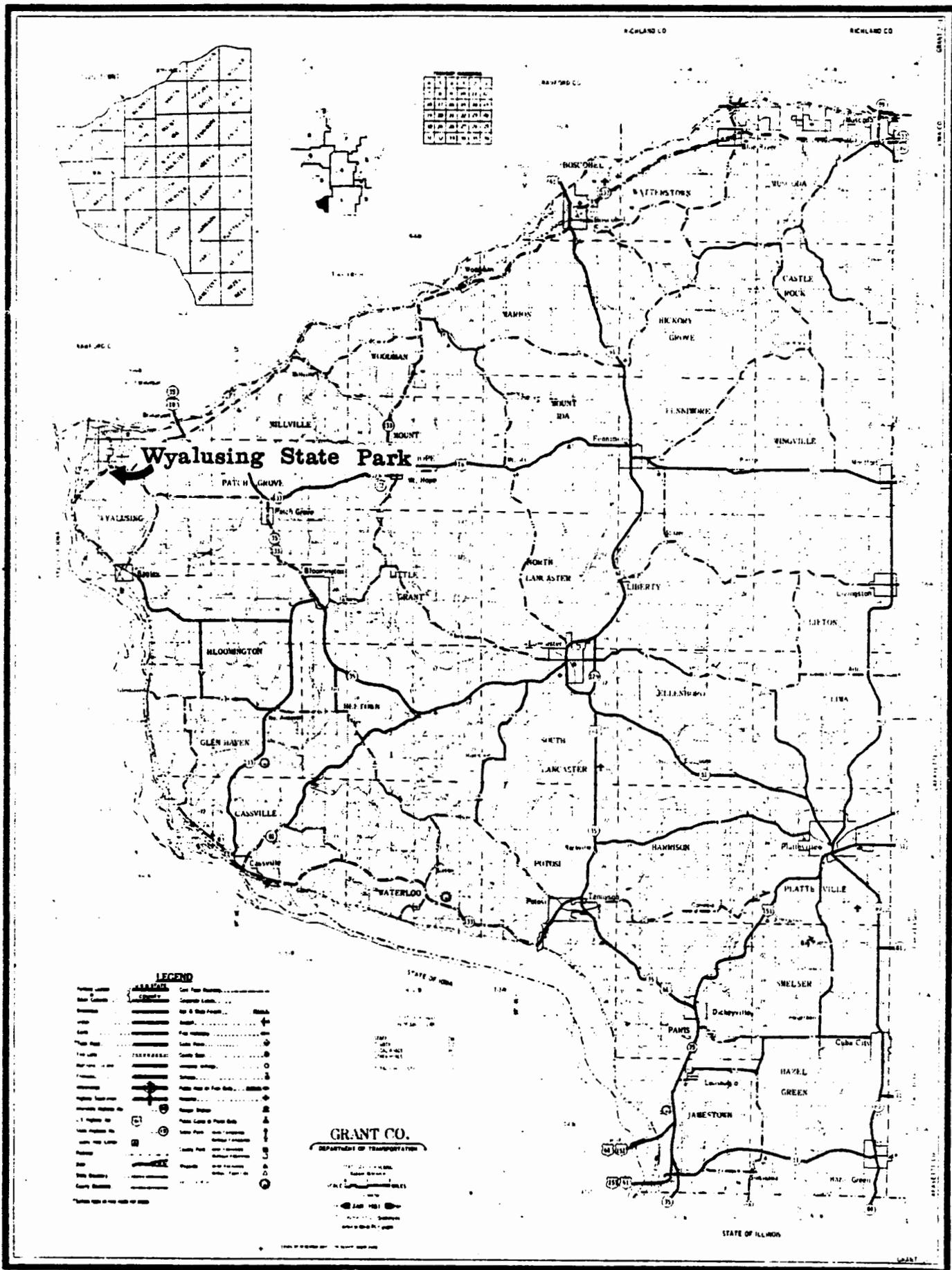
DATE

Jessie Johnson

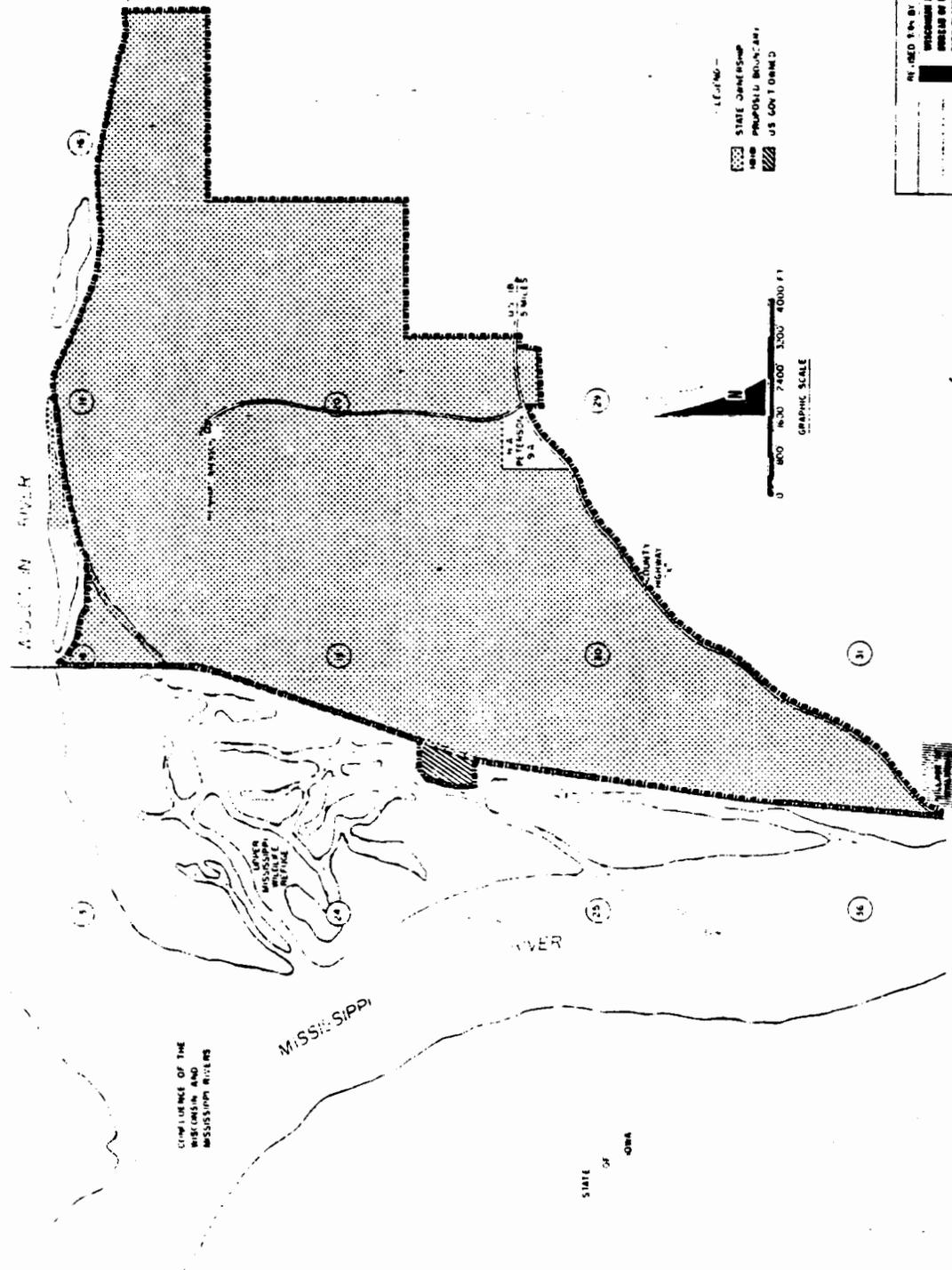
May 26/1983

This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate District Director or the Director of BEI. If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Codes establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to ss. 227.15 and 227.16, Stats., you have 30 days after service of the decision to file your petition for review. The respondent in an action for judicial review is the Department of Natural Resources. You may wish to seek legal counsel to determine your specific legal rights to challenge a decision. This notice is provided pursuant to s. 227.11(s), Stats.

1930N



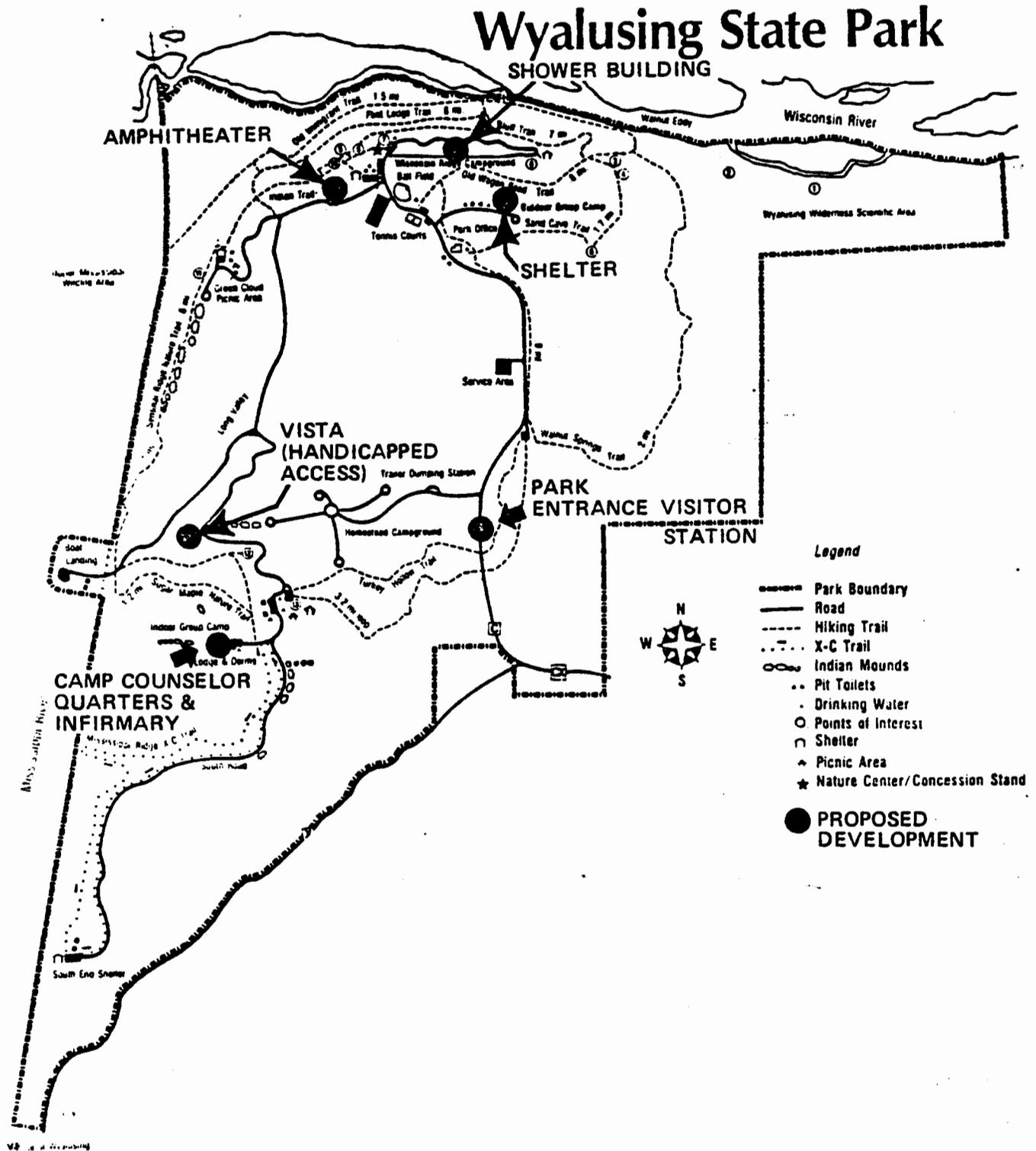
County Location Map Figure 1



PROJECT NO. 1000
 WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 BUREAU OF FOREST AND RECREATION
 PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

WYALUSING STATE PARK
 LAND OWNERSHIP MAP
 GRANT COUNTY

OWNERSHIP MAP FIGURE 2



DEVELOPMENT MAP—PRESENT & PROPOSED FIGURE 3

CORRESPONDENCE / MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DATE: December 17, 1984

IN REPLY REFER TO: 2510

TO: Ed Bergman - EA/3

FROM: Dave Weizenicker - P&R/4 *D. Weizenicker*

SUBJECT: Amendment to EA #1371 - Wyalusing State Park Master Plan

The following amends the approved Environmental Assessment #1371 written for the Wyalusing State Park Master Plan. This amendment provides additional information so that a separate Environmental Assessment will not have to be prepared for the proposed park entrance visitor station, camp counselor quarters/infirmary, shower building, shelter, amphitheatre, electric camper outlets, repair or replacement of pit-type toilets, and the handicap vista which was added.

The park entrance visitor station (PEVS) will be located on County Trunk Highway C within the park boundary on state-owned land. The site is open with excellent drainage. The building will likely be of standard design; wood frame, slab on grade, pitched roof, and a drop ceiling. Total building size will be about 850 square feet, which includes two offices, employe restrooms, a small utility room, and visitor services center. The project will also include extension of electrical service, installation of telephone and radio communications systems, walks, and landscaping. Septic treatment will be handled by a septic tank and drainfield with size dependent on soil conditions. A new well may be needed depending on the recommendation of an engineer or it may be feasible to tie in to the service area well. Roads and parking area for the PEVS layout will require some cut and fill. Installation of utilities will require trenching and backfilling. Total cost of the PEVS including utilities, road modifications, parking, and surfacing is estimated at \$100,000.

The proposed camp counselor quarters/infirmary building is needed for large organized groups utilizing the indoor group camp facility. It would be located near the parking area for the indoor group camp on an open, well-drained site. The building would be of wood frame, slab on grade, architecturally designed to be compatible with the group camp buildings. Total building size will be less than 1,000 square feet and will have several rooms for camp counselors and an infirmary. Depending on the recommendations of an engineer, a separate septic treatment system consisting of a septic tank and drainfield may be needed. Tie-in with other existing utilities serving the group camp will be required. Total cost of the building is estimated at \$65,000.

A six-stall shower building of standard design will be located in the Wisconsin Ridge Campground. Containing approximately 400 square feet, the building will also require a septic tank and drainfield to handle the wastewater. Size will depend on soil type. Electrical and water utility tie-ins will be with those presently serving the campground. Building costs including utilities is estimated at \$75,000. The exact building site will be chosen to avoid tree-clearing and excessive cut and fill.

The propose shelter is a small 30' x 40' open shelter of standard design to be constructed on a level, open site in the group tent camping area. Although not determined at this time, electrical outlets may also be placed in the shelter if an electrical power source is not too distant. No other utilities would be required. Estimated cost is \$18,600.

An outdoor amphitheatre with the capacity to seat about 250 persons is proposed. The site, west of the Wisconsin Ridge Campground, will have some existing slope for proper seating. The stage will also be of standard design. Disturbance of existing vegetation will be minimal. Electrical service for lighting and operating the slide projectors will be required. Estimated cost is \$12,000.

Eight existing vault toilets in various developed use areas of the park have defective vaults and will be repaired or replaced depending on the age and overall condition of the structure. The standard combination vault toilet will be used if replacement is called for. Sixty-seven thousand four hundred dollars is the estimated cost.

Electrical outlets will be installed at a minimum of 30 campsites in the Homestead Campground. All wiring will be underground with total cost estimated at \$15,000.

The handicapped vista project will provide a vehicular pull-off for two or three cars with access for the handicapped park visitor to an overlook. Some fill for the parking area and a low retaining wall of natural materials will be required. The parking area will be surfaced with asphalt paving. Cost is estimated at \$10,000.

Approximately 300 cubic yards of dirt would be excavated for construction of the PEVS, camp counselor quarters/infirmary, shower building, and shelter. Slight alterations of the topography may take place during the construction where excavated material is spread and regraded. Minor temporary erosion could occur. The proposed development will have a negligible effect on drainage. Disturbed area around the construction sites will be regraded, top-soiled, and planted to grass cover. Some fauna would continue to be displaced by park usage. Tree clearing will be very minimal. Construction of the above facilities would not impact any endangered or threatened resources.

Specific development plans will be reviewed by the State Historical Society to insure preservation of the park's archaeological resources.

Ed Bergman - December 17, 1984

Page 3.

Total estimated cost for all proposed development is \$400,000.

Construction of the above mentioned facilities, individually or in combination, would not generate impacts that would be major and significant.

cc: D. Kulhanek - P&R/4
J. Buchholz - Wyalusing State Park
K. Traska - Nevin

29450