QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE
a history of the
MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF PARKS
1954 to 1974

By U. W. Hella
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State of Minnesota

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Cover Photo: Wolf Creek Falls, Banning State Park, Sandstone
Courtesy Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Dedicated to the Memory of
JUDGE CLARENCE R. MAGNEY
(1883 - 1962)

A distinguished jurist and devoted conservationist whose quest for excellence in the matter of public parks led to the founding of the Minnesota Council of State Parks, which helped insure high standards for park development in this state.
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In the late 1930s, at the initiative of the Commissioner of Conservation and the Director of State Parks, local and regional citizens advisory committees were established for individual park units. These committees were kept informed of operations, projected capital improvements, and legislative programs through annual meetings and individual contacts with the director. The input of these local advisory committees was substantial.

In the early 1950s the park system continued to suffer from a period of neglect that started during World War II. The physical plant had deteriorated, and the planning necessary to meet the recreational needs of an expanding population with more leisure time had not been started. In 1953, Commissioner of Conservation Chester Wilson, directed that a statewide citizens advisory committee be assembled to provide for broader public representation in the planning process and for more direct lines of communication with the department.

This directive, coupled with the leadership of Judge Clarence R. Magney, resulted in the birth of the Minnesota Council of State Parks.

Recently, members Tom Savage and Sam Morgan requested that a record of the council's activities be compiled. Having worked closely with the council from the start, I agreed to act as its historian. I served as Director of State Parks from 1953 to July 1973.

It is within this time frame that the history of the Minnesota Council of State Parks is compiled. It is based on official minutes of the council, newspaper and legal records, and personal files of a number of the participants. I appreciate the cooperation of many but particularly wish to acknowledge the assistance of Ruth Husom in researching department files.

The "Remembrances" are personal recollections of people, places and events during my years of service.

During my 20 years with the council substantial progress was made in upgrading the state park system and its various units. New statewide programs including boating rivers, trails, and a natural and scientific areas system were inaugurated. The council also played a significant role in the establishment of the Voyageurs National Park and the St. Croix Wild and Scenic River.

In 1983 the name of the council was changed to the "Minnesota Council of Parks," in recognition of its continuing interest in park development at every level of government within the state. Since this history deals with a period before that change, the original designation will be used throughout.

The emphasis of this narrative is on citizen members of the council. The important contributions of state legislators, parks department personnel, and Governors C. Elmer Anderson, Orville L. Freeman, Elmer L. Andersen, Karl F. Rolvaag, Harold LeVander and Wendell R. Anderson to the council's achievements have not been chronicled in detail here—for that is another story.

U. W. Hella
St. Paul, Minnesota
July 4, 1985
Judge Clarence R. Magney, founder of the Minnesota Council of State Parks and its driving spirit, was recognized as an outstanding jurist and a dedicated conservationist. In 1947, during his 65th year, he was named by the Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of the "The 100 Great Men of Minnesota."

He was born January 11, 1883 and grew up in the state's St. Croix Valley. He graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1903 and Harvard Law School in 1908. He settled in Duluth to practice law. His first case took him to Grand Marais, then accessible mainly by boat. He fell in love with the grandeur of the North Shore scenery, a love that grew with the years.

He served as Mayor of Duluth from 1917 to 1920; as a District Judge from 1920 to 1943; as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1943 to 1953; and for most of the balance of his life as a Commissioner, aiding in the duties of the High Court. He died May 13, 1962.

His good friend, journalist George L. Peterson, later wrote of him:

"'Ladies of the forest'—that is what Judge Magney called birch trees. Thus, the sometimes stern jurist revealed the reverence of nature which so long possessed him. Because he loved the North Shore he sought to put many of the most scenic tracts in the protective park system. State parks in northeastern Minnesota exist largely or entirely through his foresight in delineating them and through his perserverance in winning legislative authorizations and appropriations for the purchase of land. More than any other individual, he was responsible for the establishment of Grant Portage National Monument at the historic fur trading center on Lake Superior.

"As a jurist he was both scholarly and practical, his written opinions clear and readable. He was a strict interpreter of the law, believing that courts were not legislatures. He was a judge of the highest principles. Yet it was in his semi-public and unpaid role as a conservationist that he will be remembered best and longest, for his mark is on many places which offer inspiration to the spirit of man.

"The idea of promoting public parks came to him as Mayor of Duluth. That office also included the commissionship of public affairs, a department which in turn included parks. Acting as his own park superintendent he soon was immersed in recreational problems and during his term expanded the city's park system to 6,000 acres. He was also instrumental in doubling the size—to 8,367 acres—of Jay Cooke State Park adjoining Duluth on the southwest.

"Judge Magney traveled the world. He made half a dozen trips to Africa. He particularly loved the grandeur of New Zealand. 'Still,' he said, 'I don't think any place can match the extensive scenery of our own North Shore.' He loved to return to his beautiful home where the Caribou River joins Lake Superior. Someone has called him 'Mr. North Shore,' and the title is appropriate. His vision for Minnesota's state park system embraced more than the Lake Superior area. He was the driving force in the organization of the Minnesota Council of State Parks and served as chairman from its formation in 1954 to his death. He urged a Fort Snelling State Park decades before it finally was authorized.

"The last improvement to which he had dedicated himself was the removal of commercial signs along the right of way of the North Shore highway. He was a friendly man but he did not hesitate to speak his mind and some of his most caustic comments had to do with defacing the scenery with billboards. On his last trip to the shore, only a few weeks before his death, he was delighted to find that his crusade against signs was
taking effect. Truly a ‘Giant of the North’ was C.R. Magney, Minnesota’s No. 1 Conservationist.”

Remembrances

... An inspection tour with Judge Magney of the St. Croix River Valley on a beautiful October day. We stopped at a country church at the outskirts of Lindstrom to visit the churchyard cemetery. A marble shaft bears the inscription “Magny” (later changed to Magney) to mark the graves of his family predecessors. We traveled north on back roads, passing a pioneer homestead where he had spent a summer with an uncle and aunt. He recalled that his father had traveled by boat from Taylors Falls to Red Wing to attend Gustavus Adolphus (the original location of the college) as its first student. We continued north on back roads, driving to the river’s edge whenever possible. Eventually we reached the confluence of the Sunrise and St. Croix Rivers, the proposed Sunrise State Park site (later changed to Wild River State Park). After further exploration on foot, we headed back for the Twin Cities. It had been a beautiful day...

... Dinner with the Rex Greens (right-of-way engineer for the Highway Department) at their cabin at the mouth of Spruce Creek on the North Shore. Rex and the Judge were very special friends — cooperating in the acquisition of shore areas and friendly opponents in a perpetual series of cribbage games...

... Post cards from the Judge from interesting places on his annual trips to faraway places such as Bombay, Capetown, Athens, “somewhere in Asia,” Samoa, Carlos de Bonche, Argentina, New Zealand, Rome, Stockholm and Ghana...

... In 1935 during a period of low water in the Cascade River when bottom rocks had surfaced in the pool below the high falls— watching the Judge skip from rock to rock— tiny Mrs. Magney trying to follow. She died in 1944, and in mourning he disappeared from his circle of friends for a period of time...

... Breakfast at his Caribou River cabin — speckled trout and blue berries prepared by WCCO’s “Uncle Fogie” (Clarence Tolg, a distant relative)...

... Dinner with the Judge following his sudden return from Capetown while on a worldwide trip. The discouraging news of acute leukemia and medical advice to return immediately for diagnostic confirmation at the Mayo Clinic...

... Trip to Duluth with George Peterson, Ed Chapman and Tom Savage to attend funeral services for the Judge at his home church in West Duluth. Interment next to Mrs. Magney in a cemetery high on a hillside overlooking East Duluth and the expanse of Lake Superior extending to the far horizon. In view also the magnificent lake shore, its most impressive segments preserved to the mouth of the Pigeon River — his legacy to us and generations to come...
II. MINNESOTA'S STATE PARK SYSTEM

Minnesota was among the first states in the Union to begin building a system of state parks. A brief look at the history of this system is necessary in evaluating the role of the Council of State Parks.

The park system got its start in 1889 when the Legislature established Camp Release near Montevideo in Chippewa County as a State Monument. It commemorates the site at which Chief Red Iron released 269 white prisoners taken during the 1862 Indian Uprising. Two years later the first state park in Minnesota, Itasca, near Park Rapids, was authorized by the Legislature to preserve the headwaters of the Mississippi River and to establish "a real wild state park," as the editor of the St. Paul Dispatch described it.

These two units set the pattern for our state park system at the same time that a similar pattern was emerging in other states—most notably New York and California—where the idea of state parks originated. Today this concept is accepted nationwide. It is defined by the National Conference on State Parks as follows: "State park systems are usually comprised of areas of scenic, scientific, historical and archaeological significance...of sufficient importance to attract visitors from a large section of the state."

The management objectives of the state park system were succinctly expressed by Congress in the Organic Act establishing the National Park System, which we incorporated in our preamble to state park legislation: "To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Within this framework, the Minnesota State Park System was developed under the guidance and administrative direction of authorities and consultants with outstanding records of accomplishment.

The system experienced its greatest growth in the depression period of the 1930s. It actually came into being in 1933 and was formalized by the Legislature in 1935. The late Theodore Wirth, Superintendent of the Minneapolis City Park System at the time and a close friend of then Governor Floyd B. Olson, provided initial guidance for the planning and implementation of the system. Upon Mr. Wirth's recommendation, Harold W. Lathrop, an apprentice of Mr. Wirth's was appointed Director of State Parks. In this era, development was accomplished through use of up to 15 CCC Camps and numerous WPA and NYA projects.

Individuals involved in the planning and development of the park system included:

Kenneth Shelley—an inspector for the National Park Service assigned to Minnesota; a graduate of the University of Illinois' School of Landscape Architecture; and a principal in the firm of Shelley and Associates of Indianapolis.

Grant Ross—an inspector for the National Park Service; a graduate of the University of Washington's College of Civil Engineering; and a consulting engineer.

Harry L. Staves—an inspector for the National Park Service; a graduate of Iowa State College's School of Landscape Architecture; and later a planner for Los Angeles County.

George Nason, Sr.—chief of design for the Omaha Regional Office of the National Park Service; a graduate of the University of Minnesota's School of Civil Engineering and Harvard's School of Landscape Architecture; and a member of the firm of Nichols, Nason and Cornell.

Reuben Law—former employee of Nichols, Nason and Cornell and the city of St. Paul's Park Department; following state service, he became president of Nason, Law, Wehrman and Knight, successor to Nichols, Nason and Cornell.
Harry Curtis—assistant director of Region 4 National Park Service and regional supervisor of the “State Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Studies”; former assistant director of the Indiana State Park System; a graduate of Purdue University’s College of Engineering; and later chairman of the board of C & C Construction Co., a subsidiary of Westinghouse engaged in sewer and water system construction on a global basis.

At the direction of Messrs. Curtis and Lathrop a report entitled “The Minnesota Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Plan of 1939” was prepared. It served as the basis for establishment of Cascade River, Mille Lacs Kathio, Lac Qui Parle, Minnesota Valley, Nerstrand Woods, Frontenac, Forestville and Kilen Woods as units of the state park system. It is fortunate that our park system and its units have had the benefit of highly qualified individual and team planning, a tradition that has carried forward to the present day.
III. THE COUNCIL IS BORN

The period of 1941-1953, which encompassed two wars, was a time of stagnation for the park system. Gasoline rationing drastically reduced park use and budget restrictions limited operations and held maintenance to a bare minimum. A run-down physical plant and a burgeoning population with more leisure time posed major problems. Complaints were starting to be heard from park system users and representatives of the tourist industry. For example, Alec Rutgers, a leader in the state’s resort industry and a representative of Greyhound Bus Lines, publicly criticized the condition of the park system.

The 1953 Legislature responded by approving the State Park Permit Act, which helped provide the financing for a new era of park development and expansion. It was my good fortune to be chosen to be one of the administrators of this exciting new era. Shortly after Parks Director Lew Ferio announced his intention of retiring, I had occasion to renew acquaintance with Supreme Court Judge Clarence Magney. I had known the Judge from the prewar era when I had served in the state park system and on occasion had sought his counsel. We discussed the parks situation, and he suggested that I apply for the directorship. Shortly thereafter a mutual friend, Clarence (Cap) Long, arranged an appointment for me with Commissioner of Conservation Chester Wilson. Mr. Wilson recommended my appointment to Governor C. Elmer Anderson, who approved it.

One of my first acts as director was to retain Arthur R. Nichols, a partner in the firm of Nichols, Nason and Cornell, nationally recognized for its site planning expertise, for the task of updating prewar park development planning. Judge Magney often recalled how, as Mayor of Duluth, he arranged for the employment of Mr. Nichols as site planner for Duluth’s Civic Center over others more favored politically. In time Mr. Nichols was succeeded by Bernie Halvor, followed by Milt Krona.

In the fall of 1954 Commissioner Wilson directed that a statewide citizens advisory committee be organized. Citizens’ concerns and support for state parks in the mid-1930s had been expressed through local park committees organized through the efforts of then Commissioner William L. Strunk and Director Harold W. Lathrop. During the war years most of these committees died a quiet death due to inaction and attrition. A few such as Itasca survived because of concerned individuals such as Harold Bishop of Park Rapids. During those years Judge Magney, with the help of Rex Green, represented the citizen interest in the North Shore parks. In the prewar era Jay Cooke State Park was served by a local committee led by Rodney Paine and Judge Magney.

Following the Commissioner’s directive, I called on the Judge for his ideas and opinions. The Judge, Edwin P. Chapman and I then went to Itasca for a meeting hosted by the Itasca State Park Association with citizen representatives from throughout the state. It was here that the Minnesota Council of State Parks was born with Judge Magney as its first chairman, Ralph S. Thornton, vice-chairman, and Ed Chapman, who was later named a Hennepin County Municipal Court Judge, as secretary-treasurer. At a December 3, 1954 meeting at the State Office Building the name of the organization was formalized and certain far-reaching decisions were made:

1. To remain free of governmental control, no statutory authority would be requested. (Interestingly, when the effectiveness of the council became apparent in later years, the Governor sent word that he wanted two individuals appointed to the council. The Governor’s aid who delivered the message was disbeliefing when told that the individuals would have to apply per-
2. **To remain flexible, no bylaws would be adopted.** (The Judge felt that bylaws could be restrictive and would hinder quick action on matters of importance.)

3. **To maintain its intensity of purpose, the membership would be limited to 16 active individuals.** (In later years when volume and scope of activity demanded, membership was increased to a maximum of 50. Still later all limits on membership were removed.)

The chairman then appointed a committee consisting of Ed Chapman, Ward Olmsted and Albert Marshall to draft a statement of objectives. The statement as drafted was qualified as "some of the objectives of the council." It reflected immediate needs but in the foreword stressed the need for long-range programing and planning. The draft, later adopted, included the following:

a. To secure the much-needed reconditioning and rehabilitation of many of our state park areas and buildings. (As an illustration, the sanitary facility should meet current visitor expectations.)

b. To encourage the acquisition and preservation for posterity of outstanding, unique, scenic and historical areas.

c. To promote the development of areas close to centers of population and on major routes of travel, providing adequate recreational facilities for our citizens and visitors.

d. To assist in establishing an educational program designed to familiarize the people of Minnesota with its park system.

e. To take such other appropriate actions in connection with parks as will be to the best interests of the people of our state at large.

During the following 20 years council members were instrumental in promoting long-range planning; in raising funds and securing gifts of property and services; and in encouraging favorable legislation and publicity for the park system. A variety of professional and business backgrounds were represented in the membership, whose talents were effectively and generously donated.

Early during each legislative session the council would act as a "citizens lobby" by hosting a dinner for key legislators and briefing them on state park needs and accompanying legislation.
IV. THE MINNESOTA PARKS FOUNDATION

In 1967 the council organized the Minnesota Parks Foundation to serve as a vehicle for the receipt of tax-deductible gifts of 1) money, stocks, bonds, etc. by individuals, corporations and foundations interested in the preservation and improvement of Minnesota's natural heritage; and 2) land that donors believed might be used in perpetuity for parks, wildlife preserves, or recreation purposes or which might qualify for preservation as a scientific and natural area.

Although the foundation is under the sponsorship of the Minnesota Council of State Parks, it was not created solely for the advancement of the state park system. It was also authorized to provide assistance to county, municipal and metropolitan parks and to such private, non-profit organizations as The Nature Conservancy and National Audubon Society.

The foundation's first board of trustees consisted of Samuel H. Morgan, president; Thomas C. Savage, treasurer; and Reuel Harmon, Goodrich Lowry, Albert Marshall, Arthur Roberts and Henry Somsen.

The foundation was among the first of its kind in the nation. Its articles of incorporation, drafted by Mr. Morgan, were requested by the State of California, which established a similar foundation in 1968.

From 1954 through 1974 the state park system benefitted from donations of funds and property with a total value of nearly $11 million (see accompanying chart). Some of these gifts predated the formation of the foundation; however, all resulted in varying degree from the efforts of council members. The State also realized favorable terms in the purchases of land because prices were negotiated by council members, in many cases by council President Magney and his close friend Rex Green, former head of right-of-way acquisition for the State Highway Department.

For example, the original tracts for nine units, some of which contain the most spectacular waterfalls on Lake Superior's North Shore, were obtained for only $26,000. The nine are Baptism River, Split Rock, Caribou Falls, Kadunce River, Ray Berglund, George Crosby, Cascade River, Temperance River and Judge C.R. Magney (originally Bois Brule). Mr. Green was able to acquire the Temperance and Cascade sites in conjunction with the necessary right-of-way for Highway 61 at no extra cost to the State. The deeds for the two tracts contain the name of the council's first secretary-treasurer, Ed Chapman. As then county attorney for Cook County, he served as conduit for conveying title to these lands to the highway department.

At the time Bois Brule was acquired, 40 acres containing the High Falls was not included because of an error. Through the persistent efforts of Judge Magney, however, the critical tract was later purchased for $5,000. An apparently reluctant but resigned realtor, A. Van Johnson of Grand Marais, was quoted by the Judge as saying, "You'll never give me any peace until I sell it to you at your price."

There were disappointments, too, of course. One was Tettegouche, a unique and magnificent area of 4,400 acres that appeared lost forever to the park system. It contains four beautiful lakes nestled in connecting hills that command a breathtaking view of Lake Superior. Of Tettegouche, the late Sigurd F. Olson, a council member and renowned wilderness author and ecologist, wrote:

"I could picture myself alone on that little bald knob looking across the valley, or sitting by the little waterfall at the head of Palisade Creek, or walking along those beautiful little bogs full of bog flowers at various times and all kinds of vegetation and hearing the bird songs...some day I will be in there when it is quiet, at dusk or early in the morning before dawn, just to catch these things."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF GIFT</th>
<th>DONOR</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Park Administration</td>
<td>(a) Funds to employ a Chief of Interpretative Services on demonstration basis</td>
<td>Wilkie Bros. Foundation</td>
<td>$ 7,400</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) Production of a state park film.</td>
<td>Minnesota Parks Foundation</td>
<td>23,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afton State Park</td>
<td>Purchase of land and payment of tax liabilities and professional services via Sam Morgan</td>
<td>Minnesota Parks Foundation</td>
<td>138,000</td>
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<td>Banning State Park</td>
<td>Gift of 455.6 acres of land along the Kettle River</td>
<td>Minnesota Power &amp; Light</td>
<td>4,321</td>
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<td>Baptism River State Park</td>
<td>Gift of 40 acres via Judge Magney</td>
<td>3M Company</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Stone Lake State Park</td>
<td>Gift of funds for purchase of land via Big Stone Lake State Park Association</td>
<td>Big Stone County Board</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<td>Blue Mounds State Park</td>
<td>Gift of matching money for the purchase of Manfred Estate via Sam Morgan</td>
<td>Bush Foundation</td>
<td>23,750</td>
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<td>Crow Wing State Park</td>
<td>Funds for the purchase of land via John Humphrey</td>
<td>Crow Wing State Park Association</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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<td>Fort Snelling State Park</td>
<td>(a) Funds for purchase of land via Reuel Harmon, Goodrich Lowry and Ray Black</td>
<td>Fort Snelling State Park Association</td>
<td>127,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) Donation of 2 platted lots via Sam Morgan</td>
<td>Chicago, Milwaukee &amp; St. Paul R. R.</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<td>Minnesota River Valley</td>
<td>Financing for a “Plan for Recreational Trails in Minnesota Valley” via Clyde Ryberg et. al.</td>
<td>Minnesota Valley Horsemen’s Club</td>
<td>$ 14,500</td>
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<td>and Tom Savage</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Croix Valley</td>
<td>15,000 acres of St. Croix River land via Northern States</td>
<td>Northern States</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
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<td>St. Croix State Park &amp;</td>
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<td>Wild River State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sibley State Park</td>
<td>Gift of 33.1 acres for Group Camp, 1957 via Victor Holm</td>
<td>Sibley State Park Association</td>
<td>6,500 (est)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tower Soudan State Park</td>
<td>(a) Gift of 882.7 acres of land and historic underground mine with operating equipment via Governor Elmer L. Andersen</td>
<td>U.S. Steel Corp</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) Gift of 14 acres abandoned railroad R/W</td>
<td>Duluth Mesabi &amp; Iron Range R.R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIT</td>
<td>DESCRIPTION OF GIFT</td>
<td>DONOR</td>
<td>VALUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>William O'Brien State Park</td>
<td>(a) Gift of 66.4 acre island in St. Croix River</td>
<td>David S. Greenberg</td>
<td>10,105</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) Gift of Money for purchase of park land via Sam Morgan</td>
<td>Minnesota Parks Foundation</td>
<td>78,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Crosby Manitou State Park</td>
<td>(a) Gift of 3,320 acres of land via Judge Magney</td>
<td>George Crosby</td>
<td>28,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frontenac State Park</td>
<td>(a) Gift of 192 acres from John Hauschild via Frontenac State Park Association, Al Marshall, president</td>
<td>John Hauschild, County of Goodhue</td>
<td>$ 7,025</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) Gift of 40 acres in Goodhue County via Frontenac State Park Association</td>
<td>Frontenac State Park Association</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(c) Gift of 171.3 acres of Monro property via Frontenac State Park Association</td>
<td>Frontenac State Park Association</td>
<td>25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(d) Administrative costs, interest, taxes and legal expenses</td>
<td>Frontenac State Park Association</td>
<td>1,016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franz Jevne Wayside</td>
<td>Gift of 115 acres of fishing area and rapids on Rainy River Family</td>
<td>Franz Jevne Family</td>
<td>6,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Cooke State Park</td>
<td>Gift of 108.73 acres of land via Judge Magney &amp; Light</td>
<td>Minnesota Power</td>
<td>11,000 (est)</td>
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<td>Maplewood State Park</td>
<td>Gift of 265.15 acres via Dr. Norman Baker, Rudy Gustafson, Bob King and et. al.</td>
<td>Maplewood State Park Association</td>
<td>53,000 (est)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Tettegouche was owned by Clement K. Quinn, who was concerned that the wilderness character of the area be preserved. In 1969 I visited Mr. Quinn with two acquaintances of his from years back—Albert Marshall and F. Peavey Heffelfinger. We toured the area in a gentle rain, which seemed only to enhance its incredible beauty. The wildness of the area was attested to by the presence of fresh wolf tracks. Later at lunch hosted by Mr. Quinn, he told us that there was opposition locally to acquisition by the State due to fear of an unfavorable impact on the county tax base. In spite of this drawback, we came away with a strong sense of optimism. But the gift was not to be. Instead he sold it two years later to John Delaittre.

Fortunately, Mr. Delaittre was also deeply concerned about preserving this unique area for posterity. He eventually granted an option to acquire Tettegouche to The Nature Conservancy. In 1981 the Legislature authorized funds for its purchase as a state park.
In 1954 the Park System consisted of 65 units totaling 88,000 acres. By 1974 it had increased to 86 units of an authorized 200,000 acres of which 160,000 were acquired. Nine units had been transferred to city or county jurisdiction. (A chronological listing of state parks, recreation areas and monuments is included in this chapter.)

By 1958 it had become apparent that the recommendations of the 1939 State Parks and Recreation Study were in need of updating. At the council's annual meeting in September, Harold Bishop and Rodney Payne offered a resolution, enthusiastically supported by Judge Chapman and the late Dr. Norman Baker, emphasizing the urgent need for a survey of the current condition of the park system and a long-range plan for its continued development. Seconded by Wes Libby, it was unanimously approved. In addition, the cooperation of the National Park Service was requested. It agreed to participate and assigned planners Chester Brown and Evan Haynes to work with state park planner Bernie Halvor. Department personnel were urged to suggest potential sites for evaluation. The subsequent field studies were made during the following two years.

In the fall of 1960 the results of the new study were made public. The report recommended establishment of 35 new state parks, a boating rivers system, and a possible national park. The recommendations received statewide coverage by all news media.

During the 20 years following creation of the council, 30 new parks were established, starting with George Crosby Manitou in 1955. Nine of the 30 were established before the issuance of the 1960 Planning Report and seven during the 1961 legislative session. The council was pleased with the progress but did not wait long to agitate for further expansion.

A December 5, 1962 letter to members from Secretary Chapman called for "an extraordinary meeting of leading park and conservation people to devise and support a fair program in the coming legislative session."

The December 14 meeting, chaired by Al Marshall, was well attended by citizens from all parts of the state. It was agreed to submit an omnibus bill for 10 new state parks. A suitable bill was drafted and as is noted in the chronological listing of parks, all 10 units were authorized by the 1963 Legislature and subsequently established. For this achievement the council received national recognition in the form of the prestigious Pugsley Silver Medal Award.

During the following 10 years just four additional parks were established. The emphasis in this period was on boundary revisions of previously established parks to enlarge and protect them from urban sprawl or to accommodate accelerating park usage. A case in point was the addition of 40 acres north of the Mississippi headwaters at Itasca. It made possible a large parking area, a complementing museum and other service facilities without intruding on the headwaters site itself. The support of Harold Bishop and the Itasca State Park Advisory Committee was essential in making this addition possible. An omnibus bill calling for 18 state park boundary revisions was authorized by the 1969 Legislature.

During the 1954-74 period more than $8 million was authorized by the Legislature for land acquisition and $20.7 million for capital improvements. These expenditures were funded by:
1) The State Park Automobile Entrance Fee,
2) The Minnesota Natural Resources Fund (a dedicated tax of 2¢ per package on cigarettes),
3) One-third of the Highway Unrefunded Gas Tax Fund, and
4) The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (matched by state funds or private sources).
MINNESOTA STATE PARKS, RECREATION AREAS,
WAYSIDES AND MONUMENTS
Listed in Order of Establishment, 1889 - 1973

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Contact Agency or Individual During 1954 - 1974 Period</th>
<th>Date Established</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Contact Agency or Individual During 1954 - 1974 Period</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Camp Release</td>
<td>Itasca State Park Association</td>
<td>1889</td>
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<td>Blue Mounds (Mound Springs)</td>
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<td>Harold Bishop, Pres.</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Pomme de Terre</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Birch Coulee</td>
<td>Clifford Bostrum</td>
<td>1893</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Split Rock Creek</td>
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<td>Interstate</td>
<td>Mankato Jaycee's</td>
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<td>44</td>
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<td>1899</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>Mnneopa</td>
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<td>Lake Carlos</td>
<td>Verne Trenne</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Traverse des Sioux</td>
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<td>1905</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>Father Henepin</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Acton Monument</td>
<td></td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>St. Croix</td>
<td>Louis Brabec, Secretary Pine Co. Dev. Assoc.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Fort Ridgely</td>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>St. Croix Island</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Alexander Ramsey</td>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>Baptism River</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Horace Austin</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>Inwood Woods</td>
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<td>1945</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Jay Cooke</td>
<td>Jay Cooke State Park</td>
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<td>Brook Park</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>William O’Brien</td>
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<td>Schwandt</td>
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<td>Split Rock Wayside</td>
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<td>County Beltrami Monument</td>
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<td>Whitewater</td>
<td>Dr. J.C. Harguth</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>McCarthy Beach</td>
<td>Frank Robertson</td>
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<td>58</td>
<td>Helmer Myre (Big Island)</td>
<td>Walter A. Steier</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Scenic</td>
<td>Wesley Libby</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Caribou Falls</td>
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<td>Forestville</td>
<td>Moppy Anderson</td>
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<td>Garvin Heights</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Wilford Monument</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Carley</td>
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<td>Moose Lake Monument</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Ray Berglund</td>
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<td>1951</td>
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<td>Sam Brown Monument</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>George Crosby (Manitou)</td>
<td>Judge C.R. Magney</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Chas. A. Lindbergh</td>
<td>Martin Engstrom</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Cascade River</td>
<td>Rex Green</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Inspiration Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Frontenac</td>
<td>Frontenac S.P.A. Al Marshall, Pres.</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Old Crossing Treaty</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Mille Lacs Kachio</td>
<td>Howard Welte, Ray Cash</td>
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<td>Chippewa Lac Qui Parle</td>
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<td>Temperance River</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>32</td>
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<td>Crow Wing</td>
<td>John Pete Humphrey</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Beaver Creek Valley</td>
<td>R.M. Zimmerman</td>
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<td>Schoolcraft</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Buffalo River</td>
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<td>Zippel Bay</td>
<td>Everett Burtles</td>
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<td>Flandrau (Cottonwood River)</td>
<td>Henry Somsen, Dr. Ted Fritche</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Bear Head Lake</td>
<td>Ted Wynn, Ely Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Gooseberry Falls</td>
<td>Judge Magney</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Big Stone Lake</td>
<td>Len Karcher, Floyd Lundell</td>
<td>1961</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Lake Bronson</td>
<td>G.S. Wass, Lyman Brink</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Cross River</td>
<td>Judge C.R. Magney</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Lake Shetek</td>
<td>Robert W. Roemer</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Devils Track</td>
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<td>84.</td>
<td>Lake Louise</td>
<td>Mrs. A.C. Buesing</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>92.</td>
<td>Jevne Family</td>
<td>Jevne Family</td>
<td>1967</td>
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The 1973 biennial recommendation of the Minnesota Legislative Building Commission (approved by the Legislature) was for $6,580,000 of which 23 percent was from the Natural Resources Fund, 17 percent from the State Park Sticker Fund, 12 percent from the Unrefunded Gas Tax Fund, and 48 percent from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Members of the Legislative Building Commission traveled the park system extensively during the summer months to make on-site inspections of recommended improvements and to hold public hearings. Members of the council and local state park associations played an active role in these hearings.

The Minnesota Legislative Natural Resources Commission was primarily concerned with recommendations on proposed land acquisition programs. The late Senator Henry McKnight served as chairman during 1961-63. Before the legislative session he held extensive meetings with council members and other supporters of the 10-park omnibus bill.

In 1966 a committee of the council, chaired by Reuel Harmon and consisting of Al Marshall, Sam Morgan, Tom Savage and Henry Somsen, met with Governor LeVander on a proposed $19.5 million accelerated land acquisition program. Financing was to be achieved through revenue bonds amortized from state park entrance fees and other receipts. The Governor suggested the Natural Resources Fund as an alternate source of funding. The Natural Resources law required that "none of these funds shall be expended except after consultation with the legislative advisory committee" of which Mr. LeVander was a member. He stated he would encourage accelerated funding through this and other sources.

Over the period of 1954-74 state park visitations had increased from 2 million to 8 million annually. County park visitations were also increasing. This was due, in part, to an action by the 1959 Legislature. It enacted a county park law, based on the best available legislation nationwide, which created much-needed new units and expedited transfer, where appropriate, of certain existing state units to county jurisdiction.

Remembrances

... Al Marshall successfully negotiating with the Highway Department for a special $200,000 per year allocation of State Aid County Highway Funds for improvement of roads from trunk highways into units of the park system. Also successfully lobbying the Legislature to budget a new staff position, chief of interpretive services, for the parks department.

... Sam Morgan’s all-out effort in successfully raising funds for an option to prevent the loss of a key tract of land necessary to the creation of Afton State Park. Sam and Chester Wilson working late at night to redraft the measure authorizing Afton State Park...

... John McKane introducing Tom Savage, who questioned whether the proposed Fort Snelling State Park would ever become a reality. We agreed that his scepticism was warranted unless the private sector became actively involved. Tom responded by spearheading the organization of the Fort Snelling State Park Association and serving as its first president. Its success is history...

... Driving with Chandler Davis over the Mendota Bridge while he made an eyeball estimate of land acquisition costs for the proposed Fort Snelling Park that proved to withstand the test of time...

... Judge Magney's phone call in September 1957 saying he had obtained N.S.P. maps of the confluence of the Sunrise and St. Croix Rivers and suggesting we get together with Ed Chapman to consider the area as a possible state park site - 16 years later his dream materialized as Wild River State Park...

... Flying a grid pattern in a light aircraft with Dr. Baker over Otter Tail County searching for a potential state park site that would block an unsuitable proposal - the new site later became Maplewood State Park...

... Harold Bishop, at a meeting of the Itasca State Park Advisory Committee, thoughtfully advocating limited use of snowmobiles, confining them to the northwest quarter of the park on developed roads and trails and the frozen surface of Lake Itasca...
... The meeting of Sam Morgan, Ray Black and Pat Foley in Washington to successfully expedite transfer of federal lands within Fort Snelling State Park...

... The formal transferring to the State of a significant tract of Federal land within Fort Snelling State Park with Mrs. Wendell Anderson, representing the Governor of Minnesota, and Mrs. Richard Nixon, representing the President of the United States...

... Participating in legislative committee sessions—some difficult, some encouraging, but mostly routine—and standing by with council members during House and Senate sessions to assist with any contingencies...

... Eleanor Maytum at a late night session of the House buttonholing legislators to support the Frontenac Park bill, due to come up for a vote that evening...

... Attending the annual fall meetings at park locations throughout the state in the beautiful autumn weather, enjoying the fellowship, reviewing accomplishments and planning for the future...

... Fondly recalling the 1964 dedication of Judge Magney State Park, the 1965 meeting at Sibley with guest speaker Conrad Wirth, former Director of the National Park Service; the 1966 meeting at Beaver Creek and Whitewater with a side trip to the Larcrescent Apple Orchards; the 1967 meeting at Itasca with guest speaker Art Elmer, Chief of Michigan Parks; the 1968 meeting with visits to Flandrau, Minneopa and Fort Ridgely; the 1969 Lake Mille Lacs meeting with visits to Mille Lacs Kathio and Father Hennepin; the 1970 Lwverne meeting and visit to Blue Mounds and the walking tour conducted by author Frederick Manfred; the 1971 inspection of the Tower-Soudan Mine and Bearhead Lake State Park, where Sig Olson led a fascinating trail walk to the “Hermit’s Cabin.” The 1972 visit to Afton State Park featuring guest speaker Lemuel Garrison, Midwest Regional Director of the NPS and a prime mover in the Mission 66 Program, forerunner of accelerated park programs throughout the country...

... In 1957, the Minnesota Council of State Parks co-hosting with the Division of State Parks the 37th annual meeting of the National Conference on State Parks at Itasca State Park September 18-21; arrangements committee members Chapman, Geiger, Harguth, Magney, Marcum, Sanvig and Thornton and chairman Baker; an outstanding program featuring new park films from throughout the nation, the roll call of states, and the gala banquet at the close of the first day; a delightful skit on ladies hats by council member Mrs. O. Sanvig, a toast on the anniversary of the Yellowstone Campfire by NPS Director Wirth, and an address by Dr. R. G. Gustafson, president of Resources for the Future. The main session on the following day was chaired by Judge Magney with Newton B. Drury, Chief of California State Parks and former Director of NPS, speaking on state park philosophy; An evening outdoor fish fry put on by The Bemidji Chamber of Commerce with walleye pike caught that day in Canada and corn-on-the-cob picked that day in southern Minnesota. The songfest late into the night led by Earl Hanson of California and the French version by R.E. Edey of Ottawa; the response to the conferences is best characterized by a letter from K.R. Congill, president of the National Conference on State Parks:

“Again thanks a million... for the wonderful hospitality extended to all of us at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference on State Parks. Participation in the Conference by Dr. Selke, Judge Magney and other members of the Minnesota Council of State Parks made all of us feel more than welcome in the good State of Minnesota, making the Conference a most outstanding meeting. Please accept my thanks and kindest personal regard to all.”
VI. THE CAMPAIGN FOR A NATIONAL PARK

In the fall of 1958 we had toured the state with members of the National Park Service’s planning team to make a final check of areas to be recommended for inclusion in a report extending the 1938 Minnesota Park, Parkway and Recreational Study. On the last day of the tour we visited Rainy Lake and the Kabetogama Peninsula and checked into the Rex Hotel at International Falls that evening. During the usual after-dinner evaluation, Evan Haynes of the National Park Service suggested that the Peninsula might have National Park possibilities. We were all in agreement. I called Wayne Judy, a local businessman and member of the International Falls Chamber of Commerce, and asked if he would meet with us at the hotel. Wayne came over with the chamber secretary. We apprised him of the park possibility and explained that local support was necessary if such a project were to succeed. We also warned him that he could expect bitter opposition and personal abuse in a supporting role. In spite of the warning, which proved to be prophetic, he agreed to try and rally local support for the national park possibility.

The idea for a national park at this location was not new. Clarence Prout, Director of Forestry, had called my attention to an almost forgotten Act of the Minnesota Legislature memorializing Congress to establish a National park of not less than 40,000 acres on its border with Canada. The request was never acted upon.

Council member Dr. Norman Baker had strongly advocated a large park on the Peninsula well before the meeting with Wayne Judy.

A preliminary field survey to determine if the area warranted consideration for national park status was made during the summer of 1961. The trip was hosted by Alec Gurber, Regional Forester of the Division of Forestry. The survey team was led by Ben Thompson, head of Land Planning and State Cooperation for the National Park Service. Their report was favorable.

In June 1962 the area was toured by Governor Elmer L. Andersen; Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service; George Amidon, General Manager of the Midwestern Woodland Division of Boise Cascade (a major landowner), Clarence Prout, Commissioner of Conservation; and Sig Olson, among others. During the boat trip Mr. Olson suggested the name, “Voyageurs National Park.” Governor Andersen drafted a memorandum of mutual understanding that “The Kabetogama Peninsula warranted serious study as a possible national park.” On his return to Washington Director Wirth authorized the Regional Director to proceed with a study and a plan.

The plan was first presented at a packed house public hearing at the International Falls High School to a restless and, at times, boisterous audience. Through it all, Park Service Planner John Kawamoto did a creditable job in the presentation.

In April 1965 Wayne Judy and George Esslinger of International Falls asked Judge Chapman to call a meeting for the purpose of organizing statewide public support for the proposed park. The meeting chaired by Judge Chapman was held at the Northstar Inn in Minneapolis. It was attended by Robert A. Watson and Archie Chelseth of H.B. Fuller Company, representing former Governor Andersen; Lloyd Brandt and Martin Kellogg, representing the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce; Glen W. Ross, a retired Minneapolis lumber dealer; Tom Savage, a St. Paul investment broker; Sam Morgan of the St. Paul law firm of Briggs and Morgan; and Lawrence Vaubel for the State Attorney General’s office.

It was decided to:
1) Form the Voyageurs National Park As-
2) Draft a statement of aims and objectives, and
3) Prepare articles of incorporation.

These proposals were adopted at an organizational meeting at the St. Paul headquarters of the Fuller Company, of which former Governor Andersen was chief executive officer.

Judge Chapman was elected president; Lloyd Brandt, vice president; Tom Savage, secretary; and Martin Kellogg, treasurer. Directors elected in addition to those four were Governor Andersen, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Ross. Mr. Watson, Fuller’s director of civic affairs, was named to act as executive secretary for the association and later became a member of the board. One of his first projects was to write and produce a 15-minute sound and color film on the proposed park, funded by the Andersen Foundation.

Judge Chapman headed the association until 1970 when Congressional hearings were scheduled to begin. Travel to Washington was not possible for Judge Chapman because of his courtroom duties. He was succeeded as president by Governor Andersen.

Congressman John Blatnik, in whose district the park site was located, was principal author of H.R. 10482, “A bill to authorize the establishment of Voyageurs National Park,” and was responsible for arranging hearings as well as enlisting the support of other members of Congress.

The first hearing was held in International Falls on August 21, 1969 before the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The concluding meeting was held in Washington on July 17, 1970. Vigorous testimony pro and con kept the issue in doubt until the end of the last hearing. But the dedicated and determined group of park proponents prevailed.

In 1971, President Nixon signed the Voyageurs National Park Bill.

The park as authorized had a total area of 168,000 acres of which 108,000 is land and 60,000 water. It varies in width from 3 to 15 miles and is 24 miles long, bordering the historic Voyageurs Canoe Route which extended 3,000 miles from Montreal to the hinterlands of the Northwest.

The first step toward development of Voyageurs National Park was taken in 1972 when the State turned over to the Federal Government more than 5,400 acres of state land in the Kabetogama Peninsula.

The park was formally dedicated in 1975.

During the preceding 10 years, literally thousands of individuals had participated in the campaign for Voyageurs National Park. Association President Andersen had filed a listing of 1,400 participating organizations with the Congressional hearing committee. Much of the task of coordinating the total effort, raising funds, conducting membership drives and other details of the association’s operations were performed in the early years by Mr. Watson, who worked closely with former President Chapman. He was succeeded by Rita Shemesh, a full time employee of the Voyageurs National Park Association. Both served with distinction.

Prominent among members of the Council of State Parks who participated were Dr. Norman Baker, Harold Bishop, Irid Bjerk, Judge Chapman, Reuel Harmon, Martin Kellogg, Sam Morgan, Sigurd Olson, Wayne Olson, Arthur Roberts and Tom Savage. George Ludeke and Gordon Mikkelson played a prominent role in publicizing the park. Hundreds of others, including members of virtually every conservation group, participated in testifying before Congressional and Legislative Committees, in fund raising and in organizing support throughout the state.
Following the formal establishment of the park the board met at the Normandy Inn in Minneapolis. It was agreed to continue the association indefinitely, with the aim of providing organized citizen support for the Park Service. The wisdom of this action is reflected in the continuing series of park-related problems that the association helped resolve in the years that followed.

Remembrances

... The five years of Judge Chapman’s presidency: when interest in the park lagged at times, Ed would spend his weekends, usually accompanied by Bob Watson, traveling throughout the state speaking to groups and meeting with interested individuals to promote Voyageurs...

... A trip to International Falls with Conservation Commissioner Wayne H. Olson during a late spring snowstorm. We arrived at the Falls during the noon for a scheduled meeting at a local cafe with a group of millhands who were concerned about losing their favorite hunting grounds to the park. Without compromising the park objectives Wayne had his audience smiling in a few minutes...

... With Sig Olson and others in the barroom of the historic Kettle Falls Hotel - two-story frame building with a veranda on which the barroom opened. Sig told a story tailored to the unique surroundings:

"It was spring and an old lumberjack who obviously had spent the winter in the woods entered the barroom, walked up to the bar and ordered a drink for himself and everyone in the house, including the bartender. He repeated the order three times and was about to order again when the bartender suggested that he pay for the previous rounds. "Pay for it? responded the jack, "I don't have any money!" With that the bartender grabbed him by his collar and the seat of the pants and heaved him through the screen door and out on the veranda. Sometime later the jack came crawling back to the bar, raised himself to his feet and proclaimed: "Bartender, I want another round for everyone in the house, but none for you—you’re the type who gets mean when he’s had a few drinks.”...

... George Amidon, a Boise Cascade executive and spokesman for the pulp and paper industry (which opposed the park), confided that he had just received a call from the New Jersey office of the Pulp and Paper Institute advising that they were not overly concerned about the Voyageurs but wanted him to continue opposing it so as not to compromise their opposition to the Allagash in Maine and the North Cascades in Washington. He swore that if I were to repeat it, he would deny it! George was a formidable spokesman for opponents of Voyageurs but always a gentleman to deal with...

... DNR Commissioner Bob Herbst doing a dynamic job, testifying before a State Senate Committee on transferring State-owned lands within the boundaries of the Voyageurs to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service...

... A successful campaign by Gordon Mikkelson, Dr. Baker and others to acquire with private funds the first tract of purchased park land in the name of the Izaak Walton League...

... At the July 17, 1970 Washington hearings before the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation the case for the park was not going well. Seated next to me was an old friend, a National Park Service official and veteran of many such hearings. He whispered that the case for the park was in jeopardy. At that point former Governor Andersen rose as President of the Voyageurs National Park Association to testify. His remarks were not only well documented but dramatically expressed. It was an outstanding job of salesmanship by the park's leading proponent. Chairman Roy Taylor said afterword: "Governor, you have a way of pouring oil on troubled waters. You make us think it can be done and a few minutes ago I was beginning to be very doubtful”...
Prehistoric people’s use of the state’s rivers as avenues of travel is evidenced by the incidence of burial mounds and exotic metals and stone artifacts found at their camp sites. Likewise, the early fur traders-explorers traveled these same river routes. When the settlers began to arrive with their horse-drawn wagons, the need for roads quickly followed.

These roads (and later railroads) were most often built in the river valleys, where early settlements that later developed into cities and villages were located, and offered optional methods of moving freight. The historic rivers, roads, trails and abandoned railroad rights-of-way serve as an environmentally suitable nucleus for trail systems.

During the 1930s era of work relief programs (CCC, NYA and WPA), trails were established in major public parks and forests of the day. Most of these trails were developed as foot paths. This was before the advent of the snowmobile and the broad public interest that had developed in backpacking, cross-country skiing, bicycling and horseback riding. Many of the trails of the thirties have survived, while others disappeared from lack of use.

Some trails developed before the thirties have also survived. The Ogechi Trail in Jay Cook State Park was created in the 1920s through the initiative of council member Rodney Paine. Acting as voluntary park superintendent at that time, he was instrumental in building a trail that extends from Oldenburg Point to the mouth of Silver Creek.

The Lind Saddle Trail in Itasca is another example of an early trail that survived. It eventually evolved as part of the park’s wilderness trail for motorized vehicles. There were others, many of which took advantage of old logging roads, fisherman’s trails, fire breaks and abandoned right-of-ways.

A June 24, 1963 meeting of the council’s executive committee agreed that the council should be active in promoting “foot, horse, bicycle, and canoe trails and establish better public relations in connection with beautification of roadsides and boulevards by suitable and inoffensive sign programs.” A trails committee chaired by Al Marshall was later established on which Dr. William Hollinshead played an active role.

Mr. Marshall, an avid hiker and canoeist, was an early advocate of overland trail systems and boating rivers. Because of a family residence on Wisconsin’s Brule River, Al was an experienced river traveler and was keenly aware of the need for implementing plans for systems that would protect and preserve the natural scenery.

The 1963 legislature authorized the Little Fork, Big Fork, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers as boating rivers, and extended authority to the Commissioner of Conservation “to mark routes which have historic and scenic values and to mark appropriate points of interest, portages, campsites, and all dams, rapids, waterfalls, whirlpools, and other serious hazards which are dangerous to canoe and water-craft travelers. The Commissioner may take by easement and by lease land for campsites and portages along such routes from funds appropriated to the Division of State Parks.”

The 1967 legislature amended the act to add the Snake, the Mississippi, Red Lake, Cannon, Des Moines, Crow Wing, St. Louis, Rum, Kettle, Cloquet, Root Rivers to the State’s boating river system.

The 1967 Legislature also authorized establishment of a riding and hiking trail in Murray and Pipestone counties from the City of Pipestone to Lake Shetek State Park. This trail is on an abandoned railroad grade and

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appropriately named "Casey Jones Trail." In addition, they appropriated monies for the purpose of "acquisition, development and easement of trails for multiple uses." "Multiple Uses" in this instance has been interpreted to include development of riding trails as well as boating river trails.

The 1967 Legislature further provided for registration of snowmobiles and regulation of their use; for authorization of the Commissioners of Conservation and of Highways to make rules and regulations; and for promotion and development of recreational facilities for snowmobiling. The Division of Parks and Recreation was delegated the responsibility for trail systems.

The 1969 Legislature authorized a Minnesota Valley Trail from Fort Snelling State Park to Le Sueur, a distance of 55 miles. The authorization included six state waysides: Rice Lake, Carver Rapids, Lawrence, and Blakely in Scott County; Belle Plaine in Carver, Scott and Sibley Counties; and Rush River in Sibley County, totaling 5,416 acres.

A north country study was authorized by Congress as part of the National Trail Systems Act of 1968. Its purpose was to determine the feasibility and desirability of a National Scenic Trail that would link the Appalachian Trail in Vermont with the Lewis and Clark Trail in North Dakota. From east to west, it would enter Minnesota south of Duluth and exit in the vicinity of Moorehead.

The 1971 and 1973 Legislatures added additional trails (three and two respectively) to the state's trail system. These are included with previously established trails on the accompanying map of recreational trails.

The statewide trail system was projected as a network of approximately 2,000 miles. Incorporated into it were nine legislatively authorized trails, the projected Federal North Country Trail and, if possible, links with trails in parks or forests to serve as appendages to the statewide trails system.
LEGEND

- State Trails with bicycle surface
- Other State Trails
- Canoe Routes
- Water Access Maps Available
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. NATURAL RESOURCES; ADDITIONS TO CERTAIN STATE PARKS. Subdivision 1. ACQUISITION OF LANDS.

[85.015] STATE TRAILS. Subdivision 1. The commissioner of natural resources shall establish, develop, maintain, and operate the trails designated in this section. Each trail shall have the purposes assigned to it in this section. The commissioner may acquire lands by gift or purchase, in fee or easement, for the trail and facilities related to the trail.

Subd. 6. Minnesota Valley Trail, Hennepin, Dakota, Scott, Carver, Sibley and LeSueur counties. (a) The trail shall originate at Fort Snelling state park and thence extend generally southwesterly along the Minnesota river valley through Hennepin, Dakota, Scott, Carver, Sibley, and LeSueur counties to the city of LeSueur, and there terminate. The trail shall include the following state waysides: (a) Rice lake wayside, in Scott county; (b) Carver rapids wayside, in Scott county; (c) Lawrence wayside, in Scott county; (d) Belle Plaine wayside, in Carver, Scott, and Sibley counties; (e) Blakeley wayside, in Scott county; and (f) Rush river wayside, in Sibley county.

(b) The trail shall be developed primarily for riding and hiking. Motorized vehicles are prohibited from that portion of the trail on the north side of the Minnesota river, lying between Fort Snelling state park and Rice lake wayside.

(c) In establishing, developing, maintaining, and operating the trail the commissioner shall cooperate with local units of government and private individuals and groups whenever feasible.

Subd. 7. Root River Trail, Fillmore and Houston counties. (a) The trail shall originate at Chatfield in Fillmore county, and thence extend easterly in the Root river valley to the intersection of the river with Minnesota trunk highway No. 26 in Houston county, and there terminate.

(b) The trail shall be developed primarily for riding and hiking.

Subd. 8. Sakatah Singing Hills Trail, Blue Earth, LeSueur, and Rice counties. (a) The trail shall originate at mile post 4.1 of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company right of way in the junction of Benning, Blue Earth county, and shall extend in a northeasterly direction along the railroad right of way to mile post 46.01 of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway at a point commonly known as Faribault Junction in Rice county, a distance of approximately 42 miles, and there terminate.

(b) The trail shall be developed primarily for riding and hiking. Motorized vehicles, except snowmobiles, are prohibited from the trail.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 1969, Sections 84.164 and 85.198 are repealed.

Approved June 7, 1971.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 85.015, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

85.015 NATURAL RESOURCES; STATE TRAILS; LUCE LINE TRAIL. Subdivision 1. The commissioner of natural resources shall establish, develop, maintain, and operate the trails designated in this section. Each trail shall have the purposes assigned to it in this section. The commissioner of administration, for the commissioner of natural resources, may acquire lands by gift or purchase, in fee or easement, for the trail and facilities related to the trail.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 85.015, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 10. Luce Line Trail.

(a) The trail shall originate at Gleason Lake in Plymouth Village, Hennepin county, and shall follow the route of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad.

(b) The trail shall be developed for multi-use wherever feasible. The department shall cooperate in maintaining its integrity for modes of use consistent with local ordinances.

(c) In establishing, developing, maintaining, and operating the trail, the commissioner shall cooperate with local units of government and private individuals and groups. Before acquiring any


Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 85.015, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:


(a) The trail shall originate in the vicinity of Arden Hills, Ramsey county, and thence extend northeasterly, traversing Anoka and Washington counties to the vicinity of Taylors Falls in Chisago county; thence northwesterly and northerly to St. Croix state park in Pine county; thence northerly to Jay Cooke state park in Carlton county, and there terminate.

(b) The trail shall be developed primarily for riding and hiking.

VIII. A TRAIL FOR THE "FORGOTTEN RIVER"

In 1957 the late Clyde Ryberg and his wife Shirley navigated the Minnesota River from its source at Big Stone Lake on the border with South Dakota to its confluence with the Mississippi River at Fort Snelling, some 275 miles as the crow flies. The trip was made in a home-built catamaran, a platform buoyed by two canoes. Clyde had wide experience in operating many types of salt-and fresh-water crafts, as well as a fascination with and love of boating. During the next 16 years, his big interest was the Minnesota River and the valley through which it meanders. It was once called the St. Peter River and served as a major artery of travel during the early history of the State. But it gradually fell into disuse. It was literally the "Forgotten River," as Clyde referred to it. Surprisingly, much of the valley forest had survived to become a part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The valley is also rich in undisturbed prehistoric burial mounds and other evidence of Minnesota history, such as traces of a stage coach trail.

Clyde worked tirelessly for the preservation of the river and its valley, speaking with any group or individual willing to listen. He was successful in interesting influential citizens, state and county officials, and conservation groups in his cause.

In January 1964 Clyde called a meeting of these individuals to formalize a program aimed at establishing a Minnesota Valley Trail. It was held in the chapel at Fort Snelling State Park. Among those in attendance were Tom Savage, representing the Council of State Parks; Tony Gasser, president of the Minnesota Horsemen's Club; State Senators Henry McKnight and Bill Kirchner; Bill Detrich of Green Giant; Lawrence E. Samstad, president of Itasca Engineering; Clint Johnson, manager of Fort Snelling State Park; Wallace C. Dayton, conservationist; Jim Kelley, attorney and valley landowner; Elaine Mallot of Control Data; and Tony Lane, free-lance photographer.

They agreed to sponsor and finance a feasibility study of recreational trail possibilities in the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling to LeSueur.

Purpose of the study was to inform the upcoming 1969 Legislature of the need and opportunities for such a system.

Larry Samsted volunteered the services of Itasca Engineering to prepare the report at a nominal fee. Others volunteered to raise necessary funds. The Minnesota Horsemen's Club was particularly active in raising money and arranging for printing services.

The completed report, "A Plan for Recreation Trails in the Minnesota River Valley," was delivered on January 29, 1969. Favorably impressed, the Legislature authorized a Valley trail system and six Waysides.

Authorized land acquisition totaled 8,062 acres at an estimated cost of $2,268,500. By November 15, 1972, 2,218 acres had been optioned or purchased at a total cost of $1,078,800. The 1969 Legislature also decreed that the "the Commissioner of Conservation and the State Planning Agency shall study the desirability of extending the Minnesota Valley Trail from Le Sueur to the source of the river at Big Stone Lake." This study was also made by Itasca Engineering. Their report of March 1, 1972 concluded that extension of "the recreational trail system from Le Sueur to Ortonville along the Minnesota River Valley is feasible and desirable."

On October 15, 1972 the Minnesota Horsemen's Club, led by Tony Gasser, Les Malkerson and Mel Asleford inaugurated the Minnesota Valley Trail with a trail ride of more than 600 horses and riders.

In 1973 the Legislature approved another Council-backed measure, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which established three basic classifications for boating rivers:
1) Wild Rivers—those that exist in a free-flowing state with excellent water quality and adjacent lands that are essentially primitive;

2) Scenic Rivers—those that exist in a free-flowing state with adjacent lands that are largely undeveloped;

3) Recreational Rivers—those that may have undergone some impoundments and may have adjacent lands that are considerably developed but are still capable of being managed to further the purpose of the act.

Passage of this act was important because it provided guidelines for future management plans for other rivers.

Remembrances

...Excerpts from Albert Marshall 11/21/67 correspondence:

"About the Cannon River Trail between Welch and Harlestown—this five mile stretch is a superb trail and also has Indian mounds...I went out to see Clem Nelson to tell him that the time was ripe to see what could be done about getting possession of the old, abandoned CMSP right-of-way that runs along the river. We could put together one of the most attractive and usable foot and saddle (and snowmobile) trails in the state."...

...A field survey trip with Clyde Ryberg and Bill Detrich of the valley bottom lands. We were riding in Bill's car over a long forgotten stage coach trail. The wheel tracks were barely discernable in the waist-high brush and swamp grass. I expected we would end up mired down in the bog that flanked the trail, but somehow we survived the tour without incident...

...On May 16, 1969 a group of more than 60 people on horseback (including legislators, state park rangers and members of various riding clubs) launched a trail ride from Pipestone to Lake Wilson. They were dedicating the Casey Jones Trail, the first authorized and developed cross-country trail in the state's trail system.

...Excerpts from a letter to Al Marshall from George N. Pabst, a retired highway engineer from Rochester:

"A state bicycle trail of 143 miles for the southeastern part of our beautiful state is one of the best ideas one can think of. Remember the old saying "Beware of an idea"?

I hope you can give it enough publicity so that not only the State but also the counties will realize what a wonderful thing it would be for all."...

...A June 26, 1970 breakfast meeting in the Rayburn Office Building with the Minnesota Congressional delegation. Representing the state were Jerome Kuehn, DNR Planner; Clyde Ryberg, president of the Minnesota Boating and Rivers Assn.; Glenn Ross, chairman of the Natural and Scenic Area Advisory Committee; and Lester Malkerson, chairman of the Board of Regents, University of Minnesota.

Our mission was to obtain a grant of $425,000 from the Interior Department's contingency fund for land acquisition in the Minnesota River Valley. The grant was eventually approved...

The Minnesota River Today

Clyde Ryberg's "forgotten river" is the subject of much attention these days. Although not mentioned by name, Clyde and his fellow "river rats," as he referred to himself and others who worked to preserve the Minnesota Valley, were recently paid a special tribute.

The June 25, 1985 issue of the ST. PAUL DISPATCH AND PIONEER PRESS told how the federal government, the State Department of Natural Resources and various Minnesota counties and municipalities were cooperating to guard the "wild beauty of river land." Here are excerpts from staff writer Don Boxmeyer's article:

"Each day a hundred thousand people fly over it and drive around it, and the Minnesota River Valley goes unchanged; 25,000 acres of river, marsh and grassland right in the belly of the metropolitan area have resisted the pressure of urbanization and have remained largely primitive.

It doesn't really show, but the efforts of federal, state and local government agencies to keep it that way are well underway. Congressional action in 1976 created the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area & State Trail after local
groups in Bloomington and Burnsville succeeded in convincing the right people that the valley was worth preserving.

What grew out of that is a 72-mile system that stretches along the Minnesota River from Fort Snelling to Belle Plaine, and that makes it the largest metropolitan wildlife refuge in the United States, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is an experiment to see if Federal, State and local bureaucracies can cooperate on a project.

And even when it's done, you won't see much of it unless you get out of your car and take a hike...

The Fish and Wildlife Service-administered land lies between Fort Snelling and Jordan. From Jordan to Belle Plaine the refuge and recreation area will be largely the responsibility of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. But the entire stretch will be characterized by a multi-use trail which will be the backbone of the system. The 200-mile trail system will be built for hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling...

The Fish and Wildlife Service also proposes to construct a $6 million visitor center near the site of its present headquarters in Bloomington…"

So the dream of a self-proclaimed "river rat" has achieved reality and has become Clyde Ryberg's legacy to the people of Minnesota and all who cherish the “wild beauty of river land.”
There was a soft grinding that I felt rather than heard as our canoe cut into a submerged sandbar. I stepped out in midstream. The cold, clear water swirled around my legs and the sand felt smooth and firm under my feet. The canoe had floated free of the bar and Al Marshall steadied it from the stern while I reboarded.

We were underway again on the waters of the St. Croix, pure and sparkling as a mountain stream. This river, however, flows between two Upper Midwest states and right by a lively metropolitan area of two million people. Facing us from both shores was a light- and dark-green pattern of conifers and hardwoods, successors to a virgin forest of white pine. Lying ahead was a similarly wooded island rising about eight feet above the rushing waters.

There are places where the banks rise much higher and more steeply, but here we were paddling through a typical stretch of the St. Croix River—one of the original eight to be preserved by Congress as “wild and scenic.”

On October 8, 1968, Congress designated the 102-mile-long Upper St. Croix—from near Gordon, Wisconsin to Taylors Falls, Minnesota—and its 98-mile tributary in Wisconsin, the Namekagon, as the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

Added to the system in 1972 was the 52-mile section of the St. Croix from Taylors Falls to its confluence with the Mississippi River at Prescott, Wisconsin, some 20 miles southeast of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Just as it worked vigorously for establishment of Voyageurs National Park in northeastern Minnesota, the Minnesota Council of State Parks actively supported Federal preservation of the St. Croix River. The council’s then vice-chairman, Eldon Zachman, emphasized the recreational values of the St. Croix in his testimony at a March 19, 1968 hearing before a congressional subcommittee on national parks and recreation.

He presented a 1966 resolution of the council that supported inclusion of the St. Croix in a Federal system of wild and scenic rivers “as probably the only way to save this river and its beautiful valley.”

He said that of the state’s three main rivers, the St. Croix alone offers a “clean, freeflowing river...that is 20 minutes or two hours driving time from the Twin Cities.”

“Unless protection is afforded now,” Zachman declared, “the pressure of population and the demands of industry will destroy forever a unique opportunity to save a priceless asset.”

Others testifying that day in support of a wild-and-scenic-river designation for the St. Croix included: Minnesota Congressmen Blatnik, Fraser, Karth and Quie; Jim Dunn for the St. Croix River Association; Jarle Leirffalom, Minnesota Commissioner of Conservation, Jack Hoffman for Northern States Power Co., largest land holder along the St. Croix; and Peter Adegaard, executive secretary of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Commission.
In 1939 at the urging of the Minnesota Academy of Science 2,000 acres in Itasca State Park were designated as a natural area. This was the first officially designated Natural Preserve in the State.

In 1942 the Academy of Science and the University of Minnesota reached an agreement on land acquisition for the Cedar Creek Natural History Area, projected as a “living museum” of some 1,000 acres.

In 1963 the Lake Agissiz Peatlands Natural Area of 22,420 acres, administered by the Division of Forestry, was designated in total as a Natural Area.

The Helen Allison Savanna was established by the Minnesota chapter of The Nature Conservancy. A number of other areas were also established under its jurisdiction.

Ownership of or jurisdiction over potential areas suited for preservation (in whole or in part) was vested in a variety of Federal and State Agencies; regional, county and municipal authorities; schools and colleges; and private organizations and individuals. An inventory of “potential nature preserves recommended for preservation” was prepared in 1964 by the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation and Resources Commission and the Academy of Science. It totaled 87 units and an estimated 220,000 acres.

It was apparent, however, for the reasons listed below, that a central authority was needed to coordinate activities and to set up standards for the operation, maintenance and evaluation of such areas.

- Lack of statutory authority to legally dedicate units and provide protection for them under the law.

It was logical that the Department of Conservation should be that central authority. The department administered a large number of suitable scientific and natural lands; employed competent authorities in the natural sciences; and had the personnel to effectively patrol its units throughout the state.

In July 1966 Commissioner Wayne Olson appointed an Advisory Committee on Scientific and Natural Areas in the State of Minnesota. Scientific and Natural Areas were described as “any areas of land or water in public or private ownership deemed worthy of preservation because in their natural conditions they hold value as living museums, sites for scientific study and research, for the teaching of natural history and conservation, as places of prehistoric interest and scenic beauty, or as habitats for rare and endangered species of plants and animals.”

Principal duties and responsibilities of the committee include recommending policies for 1) the management and protection of N & S Areas in State ownership and control 2) the inventory, classification, selection, acquisition, management, and protection of lands or waters deemed desirable as N & S Areas, and 3) the promotion of programs of research and investigations pertaining to nature preserves and related areas of educational or scientific value.

The council was represented on the advisory committee by Glenn Ross, Sam Morgan, and Mrs. Reuel (Kay) Harmon.

The legislative subcommittee chaired by Mrs. Harmon and Raymond Haik was responsible for drafting a bill to authorize the commissioner to acquire and maintain scientific and natural areas.
The 1967 Legislature approved such an act, which was amended by the 1969 Legislature. Text of the 1969 act appears at the end of this chapter.

The area selection subcommittee received nominations for more than 350 parcels of land, of which 40 were considered as S & N areas. Rush Lake Island in Chisago County (noted for its large Heron colony) was purchased in 1971 and designated a Scientific and Natural Area #1.

Remembrances

...At a senate hearing on the Scientific and Natural Area bill it was apparent that the subcommittee was not sold on the need for it. Dr. Walter A. Breckenridge of the Minnesota Academy of Science was asked what possible practical value such an area would have. This was the era of high interest in space travel. He explained that distances in space are too great to be accomplished in the ordinary lifetime of a man and that conceivably, man might learn from the study of a frog, which hibernates over the winter, how man, too, might exist in a state of hibernation, making space travel more feasible. He caught the attention of the members and the bill was passed out of committee that day...

...At the first World Conference on National Parks in Seattle in 1962 Sig Olson illustrated the significance of natural areas. He noted that the large, luscious American strawberry that we all enjoy today was a hybrid of the smaller, European strawberry and a native American plant found in the wilderness...

...When Dr. Henry Hanson advocated the experimental burn program for propagation of white and red pine in Itasca it was realized that the program might stir a violent storm of protest from the general public and, more particularly, from area residents. Harold Bishop and the Itasca Advisory Committee volunteered to handle necessary public relations in regard to the burn. Not a single objection, local or statewide, ever surfaced...
CHAPTER 470—H. F. No. 1404

[Rated in Part]

An act relating to conservation of natural resources; authorizing the commissioner of conservation to acquire, establish, and maintain scientific and natural areas, and to adopt rules and regulations in relation thereto; amending Minnesota Statutes 1967, Section 84.03.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. [84.033] Conservation; scientific and natural areas. The commissioner of conservation may acquire by gift, lease, easement, or purchase, in the manner prescribed under Minnesota Statutes, Section 117.20, in the name of the state, lands or any interest in lands suitable and desirable for establishing and maintaining scientific and natural areas. The commissioner shall designate as such the scientific and natural area lands under his jurisdiction and may post any of these lands as a "scientific and natural area." He shall preserve, protect, and manage these lands for the public welfare in consultation with qualified persons, and shall make such improvements as are found necessary to these purposes. For the purposes of this subdivision, "scientific and natural area" means an area of land or water having values inherent in the natural condition of the land or water. These values include, but are not limited to the following: (1) a living museum; (2) a site for scientific study; (3) an area for teaching natural history and conservation; and (4) a habitat for rare and endangered species of plants and animals. Land designated as a "scientific and natural area" shall not be altered in designation or use without holding a public hearing on the matter at a time and place designated in the notice of the hearing, which shall be published once in a legal newspaper in each county in which the lands are situated at least seven days in advance of the hearing. At the hearing the commissioner shall provide an opportunity for any person to be heard.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1967, Section 84.03, is amended to read:

84.03 Additional duties and powers. So far as practicable the commissioner shall collect and arrange statistics and other information in reference to the lands and general and special resources of the state.

He is hereby authorized and empowered to take such measures as he may deem advisable to advertise, both within and without the state, sales of all state lands, and to secure, compile, and issue such valuable statistics of the resources of the state.

He may adopt and promulgate reasonable rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, governing the use and enjoyment of state land reserved from sale, state parks, state public camp grounds, public access sites, boat launching facilities, state recreation reserves, trails, state monument sites, scientific and natural areas, and recreational areas owned by other state, local and federal agencies and operated under agreement by the department of conservation, which shall have the force and effect of law. A reasonable fee may be fixed, charged, and collected by the commissioner for the privilege of the use of any or all of the foregoing privileges and facilities.

The commissioner, biennially, shall report to the legislature his acts and doings, with recommendation for the improvement of conservation of state parks, state public camp grounds, public access sites, boat launching facilities, state recreation reserves, trails, and state monument sites, and all other recreational lands under the jurisdiction of the department of conservation, and for desirable accessions thereto, such report to include an inventory of the tracts and parcels of land, and rights, interests, and easements therein, held by the state or withdrawn from sale for any of these purposes, with the value thereof. He shall maintain a long range plan governing the use of the public domain under his jurisdiction.

Approved May 16, 1969.
XI. ROLL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Judge Magney's only criterion for membership in the Minnesota Council of State Parks was that "candidates needed to qualify as doers." The wisdom of this basic requirement is borne out by the council's accomplishments in Minnesota, which in turn influenced park development throughout the country.


Since then, more than 200 other "doers" have served as members—encouraging favorable legislation, raising money, and contributing their personal and professional talents.

An alphabetical listing of those who are, or have been, regular, associate, honorary or ex officio members of the council follows:

Gov. Elmer L. Andersen
Bryce W. Anderson
Donald R. Anderson
Harriett Anderson
Merle Anderson
Torgny Anderson
Charles W. Arnason
Dr. Norman H. Baker
Mrs. Norman H. (Jeanette) Baker
Leon Battles
B.V. Beadle
S. Axel von Bergen
Oscar Bergstrom
Harold Bishop
Rollis Bishop
Irid Bjerk
Raymond D. Black
Ira W. Bluhm
Jane Borchert
Marvin C. Borell
Lloyd L. Brandt
Ralph J. Braun
Edmund C. Bray
Dr. W.J. Breckenridge
Lyman A. Brink
William H. Bryson
Mrs. A.C. Buesing
Dr. Richard S. Caldecott
Richard J. Carroll
Ray Cash
Judge Edwin P. Chapman
Jean Margaret Chesley
Howard W. Cooper
Constance Currie
Donald Cysiewski
Don Davidson
Chandler B. Davis
Herbert Allan Davis, Jr.
Wallace C. Dayton
John Delaittre
Willard C. Dibble
Edwin S. Doty
Charles P. Driscoll
Phil Duff
Mrs. Phil Duff
Sen. Robert G. Dunn
R.B. Dunsworth
Sen. David Durenberger
Thomas T. Dwight
George Ehrhardt
Bruce Eliason
David R. Fesler
Sherrill Fesler
Dwight Fisk
David G. Flipp
Arnold L. Fredriksen
Clifton E. French
Dr. T.R. Fritsche
Hugh Galusha
R. James Gesell
Anton C. Geiger
N.E. Given
Paul Hadley
Bernard A. Halver
Frank Hansen
Dr. Malcom B. Hargraves
Dr. J.C. Harguth
Reuel Harmon
M.A. Haselrud
U.W. Hella
John H. Herman
Richard L. Herreid
Dr. William H. Hollinshead
Victor Holm
Paul Horn
Mrs. C.R. Humphries
C. Raymond Humphries
Steven Inkel
Jan Jeffrey
Kirk Jeffrey
Perry H. Jenks
A.D. Johnson
Betty Johnson
Frederick W. Johnson
J. Eldon Johnson
Orv Johnson
Robert Johnson
Warren Johnson
William F. Jokela
Jack Jones
Phyllis Jean Jones
Edward S. Judd
Wayne Judy
Don Kaehler
Donald W. Kahn
Phyllis Kahn
Martin N. Kellogg
Robert W. Kelly
Oscar Kern
Fred E. King
Sen. William G. Kirchner
Sheldon Knutson
Judge George Kolander
Glen Kraywinkle
Milton Krona
Edward A. Krueger
G.T. Kunau
Stephen L. Ladd
David Lais
Donald H. Lamm
Earl G. Larson
Robert F. Leach
John Lepler
Wesley Libbey
Alden Lind
Kathleen M. Lindahl
T.R. Lindquist
Chip Longacre
Goodrich Lowry
John E. Luther
Peggy Lynch
Keith Lysen
William Macklin
Frederick Manfred
Walter Marcum
Albert M. Marshall
Mrs. Albert M. Marshall
Milton Mattson
Neil Mattson
John G. Mauritz
Marilyn Mauritz
Elinora W. Maytum
Leo McCarthy
Edward Melby
Roy W. Meyers
Polly Millea
Dick L. Mills
Samuel H. Morgan
Allen Multhaup
Janette M. Musty
Mrs. Victor (Helena) Myers, Jr.
Richard Nehring
Karl Neid
E.H. (Cap) Nelson
Romaine Nelson
Arthur R. Nichols
Roger M. Nygaard
Arthur H. Ogle
Dr. F.A. Ohlsen
Ward H. Olmsted
Donald J. Olson
Howard E. Olson
Robert B. Olson
Sigurd F. Olson
Mrs. Sigurd F. Olson
Wayne H. Olson
Don Orum
Fred Ottem
F. Rodney Paine
John P. Perkovich
Stanley K. Platt
Michael Polehna
Pauline Pool
Truman W. Porter
Howard A. Post
Walter C. Rasmussen
Jerry J. Reichert
Norman Rice
Charles O. Richardson
John T. Richter
Arthur Roberts
Henry B. Roberts
Betty L. Rosas
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Known to one and all as “Judge,” a nickname acquired during his youth, U.W. Hella is nationally recognized as a leader and innovator in the field of park management and development. He says he was fortunate to serve as head of Minnesota’s park system—a model for many other states—“during its most exciting and demanding era of expansion.”

Those of us who have worked with him over the years can attest to his single-minded dedication to one constituency—those who use and enjoy the parks. Time and again he has shown the ability to take new ideas, generate public support for them, and steer them successfully through the Legislative maze. He always credits, however, a “bunch of hard-core park supporters” for doing the work and enlightened elected officials who have been “traditionally sympathetic” to the recreational needs of the state’s residents.

Judge Hella’s career in park management began in 1933 when he was employed by the National Park Service as civil engineering foreman for a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp at Scenic State Park in Minnesota. He served successively as the superintendent of the CCC Camp at Cascade River (a highway beautification project) and at Sibley State Park. He was subsequently transferred to the Omaha Regional Office of the National Park Service on miscellaneous assignments that were mostly Minnesota oriented. When Congress passed legislation authorizing a nationwide Park, Parkway and Recreational Plan, Mr. Hella was assigned to help implement that program in Minnesota.

In 1937 he transferred to the Minnesota Department of Conservation as supervisor of the Minnesota Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study, completed in 1938. He was then assigned as northern regional supervisor (northern half of the state) representing the Director of State Parks during a period of intensive park development through CCC, NYA and WPA projects. In 1942, following the outbreak of World War II, he left for employment in the war effort. He returned in 1953 as Director of State Parks and served until his retirement in July 1973.

Those of us who were closely involved with state parks in the 1960s and early 1970s will always recall what an inspiring experience it was to work closely with Judge Hella while he was serving as head of our state park system. Judge’s suggestion to Tom Savage that for a state park at Fort Snelling to become a reality a Fort Snelling State Park Association should be formed was one of the essentials to the creation of our first and only state park in the heart of our metropolitan area. What a sterling supporter of the creation of Afton State Park Judge was after he became convinced that the area could be preserved only as a state park.

But for Judge, we would today have no Minnesota Parks Foundation which has had such a key part in the establishment of our newest state parks. Judge never let the pressure for immediate development turn him aside from his wholehearted dedication to the then primary need, above all else, of securing the lands needed for the kind of state park system the state would need in the generations immediately ahead.

In any story of our state park system Director Hella will, without doubt, always be remembered as the director who played the greatest part of any in the building of the state park system we have today.

Since his retirement Judge has remained active in park and recreation matters, serving as a consultant to conservation groups throughout the country as well as in his home state. In writing about the Minnesota Council of State Parks he has been modest about his contribution to its accomplishments. But
without a parks director of his energy and vision, the council would not have been able to play the part it has in state park acquisition, development and programming.

Samuel H. Morgan
Past Chairman
Minnesota Council of Parks

Past President, currently
Vice President and Treasurer
Minnesota Parks Foundation
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