



Photo Credit

# Sibley State Park



## Park Overview

This popular west-central park has recreation opportunities for everyone. Hike up Mount Tom where you can climb the observation tower to see a patchwork of rolling fields and lakes. Summer visitors enjoy swimming, boating, and fishing on Lake Andrew. A canoe route invites adventurers to portage and canoe on Henschien Lake and Swan Lake.

Realizing that the area was a popular spot for more than the local people, the Legislature established Sibley as a state park in 1919. The park was named after Henry Hastings Sibley, Minnesota's first governor and a complicated figure who at times defended Native Americans' rights and at others facilitated the extreme injustices that reverberate today.



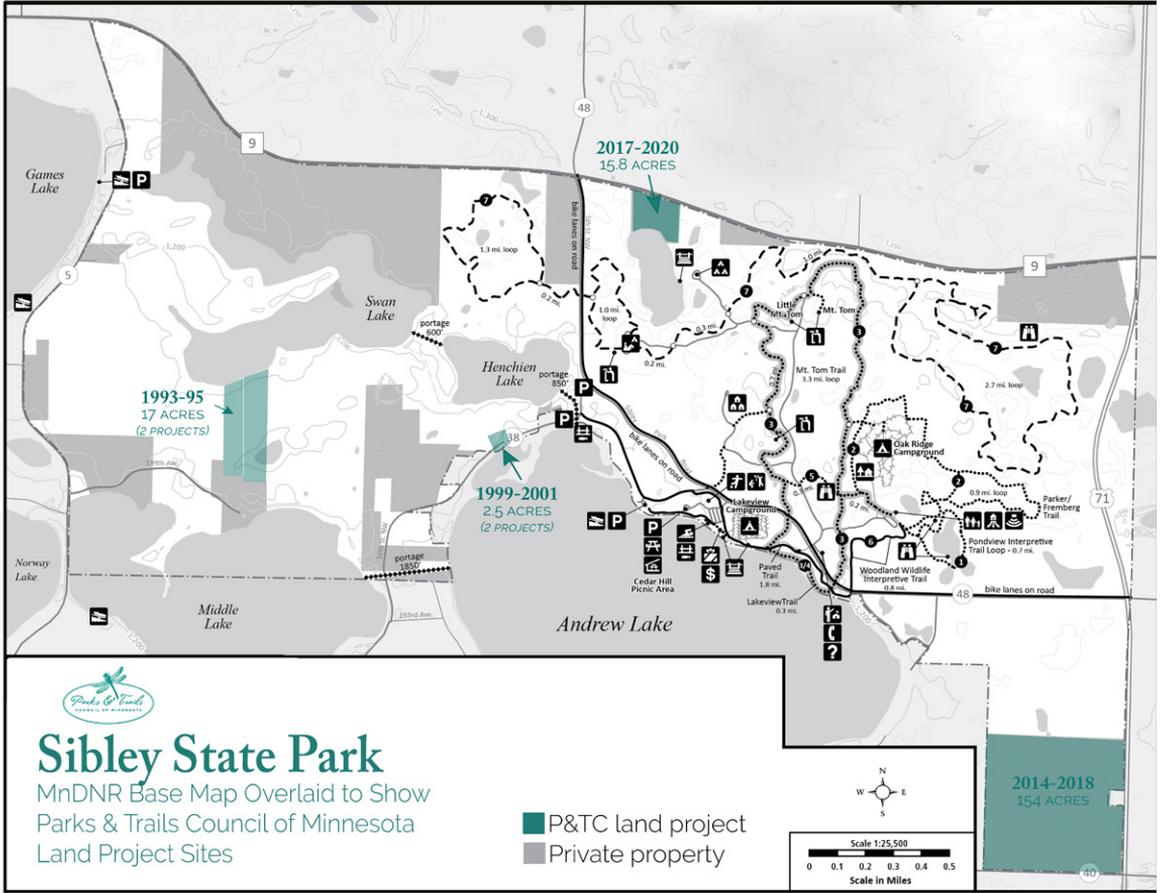
## Land Projects at a Glance

  
PROJECTS  
**6**

  
ACRES  
PROTECTED  
**189**

  
LAND VALUE  
(non-inflation adjusted)  
**\$790K**

  
LAST  
PROJECT  
**2020**



**Sibley State Park**  
MnDNR Base Map Overlaid to Show  
Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota  
Land Project Sites

■ P&TC land project  
■ Private property

2014-2018  
15.4 ACRES



Courtesy of Gary Alan Nelson

## 1-2) Swan Lake shoreline

1993 - 1995 | 17 acres | \$32K

Two private landowners held the last remaining private property along the southern leg of Swan Lake. The two projects were coordinated together. The land extends between Swan Lake and the much smaller Meadow Lake.





Courtesy of Dirk Clayton

### 3-4) Lake Andrew shoreline

1999 - 2001 | 2.5 acres | \$98K

This project involved two private landowners along Lake Andrew, the main lake in the park. The land is near an area developed with cabins. These projects were coordinated in partnership with the Sibley State Park Improvement Association.



Park Trail by Brett Feldman / P&T

### 5) Trail connection

2014 - 2018 | 154 acres | \$500K

Located just outside the park boundary, this property was essential to a proposed route that would connect a spur of the Glacial Lakes State Trail into the park. Once acquired, we successfully lobbied to expand the park boundary to include this land. We then assisted on a major cleanup and restoration effort that was led by the Sibley State Park Improvement Association. Countless volunteer hours were spent hauling out truckloads of trash, removing old buildings, conducting prescribed burns and reseeding native plants.

In spring 2022 a scenic segment of paved trail was opened traversing this land. The spur trail through the city of New London is still in development.



Lake 21 by Lisa Filter / P&T

### 6) Closing the gap on Lake 21

2017 - 2020 | 15.8 acres | \$220K

This long-sought property for the park was the last remaining parcel of private property along Lake 21. The park's primitive group camp is the only other development on the lake.

Previously used as a low-frills resort, clean-up involved removing three buildings, plus a shed, silo and outhouse. This work was led by volunteers from the Sibley State Park Improvement Association. Today, this lake offers a stunningly natural experience.