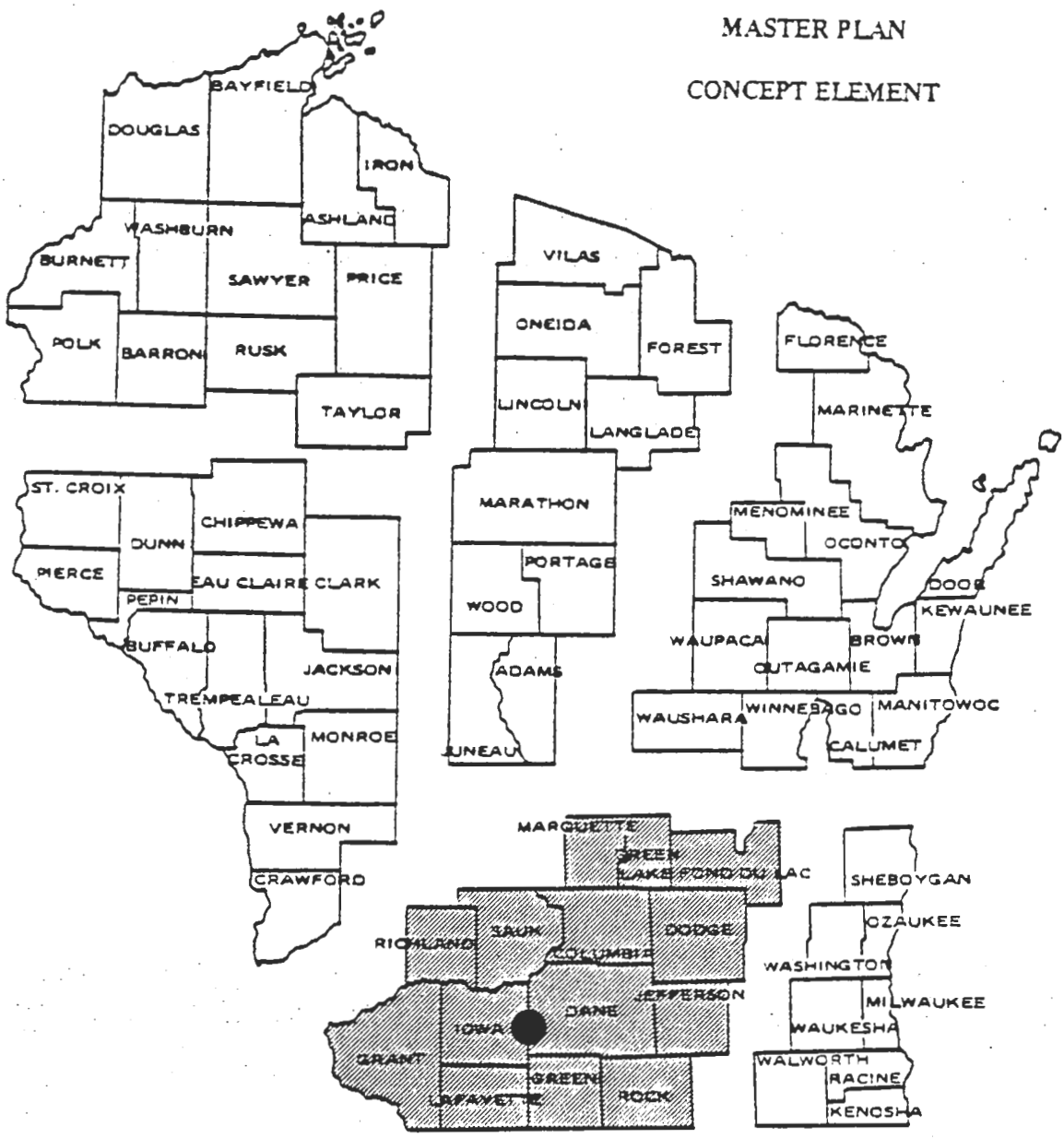
BLUE MOUND STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Approved By: NRB

Date: 5/84

Leader:

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Blair Anderson - Fire Control
Tom Hauge - Wildlife Management
Norbert Karr - Park Superintendent
Gene VanDyck - Fish Management
Jim Widder - Forest Management
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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MADISON, WISCONSIN

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SECTION 1 - ACTIONS

A. GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Goal

Provide a state park for 200,000 visitors annually that will serve the recreational, educational, and nature experience needs of the park visitor while preserving and protecting the resource for future generations.

Annual Objectives

1. Provide and maintain day use recreational areas including picnic grounds, swimming pool, observation towers, and play fields for 175,000 visitors.

2. Provide a quality recreational experience for 30,000 campers by maintaining family, outdoor group, and bicycle camping facilities.

3. Provide trail facilities for 35,000 nature, hiking, and cross-county ski users.

4. Provide facilities and programs for 10,000 visitors to interpret the significant aspects of Blue Mound State Park.

5. Provide opportunities for 250 participant days of deer hunting to maintain deer herd balance and avoid damage to vegetation.

6. Accommodate individuals who are handicapped or otherwise disadvantaged through the proper design, construction, maintenance, and operation of the property and its facilities.

Additional Benefits

1. Provide for other recreational and educational uses, including photography, bird watching, wildlife observation, and gathering of nuts, berries, and mushrooms.

2. Provide recreational and support facilities for users of the Military Ridge State Trail located within and adjacent to the park.

3. Benefit game and non-game species, including endangered or threatened species that may be native or migrate through the area.

4. Maintain and enhance the vegetative cover for aesthetics and wildlife purposes.

B. RECOMMENDED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The recommended development and management program for Blue Mound State Park follows the "moderate development" alternative selected as the most suitable for the park. Under this alternative, the following improvements

when completed, would accommodate 36 percent more park users per year. The management problems addressed in the master plan would be studied and solved. There would be no increase in the project boundary.

1. Development (Figure 4).

   a. Construct a park entrance visitor station (PEVS) on the east side of the park, at the base of Blue Mound in the vicinity of Mounds Park Road. This project would include the relocation of a portion of Mounds Park Road, the construction of blacktop road and signing for the PEVS, landscaping, and the construction of a contact building. Within the control building would be space for public contact, office space, employee toilet, drinking water, and electricity. Relocation of the town road and construction of the PEVS at the base of the mound would improve security and efficiency in park operations.

   b. Construct an outdoor group camping area with a capacity of 100 users. The site is located east of the mound in Section 6. Support facilities would include a pit toilet, drinking water, two-way gravel road, and parking for 30 cars, picnic tables, fire rings, trash cans, signing, and landscaping.

   c. Construct a 15-unit bicycle campground. This facility would be in support of the Military Ridge State Trail and would provide camping opportunities for bicyclists and trail users only. The site would be located adjacent to and south of the family campground or about one-quarter mile north of the Military Ridge Trail. Support facilities would include a connecting bicycle trail surfaced with limestone screenings, a loop campground trail, toilets, drinking water, picnic tables, fire rings, trash receptacles, a shower facility, signing, and landscaping.

   d. Upgrade four miles of cross-country ski trail to be used also as hiking trail. Construct two miles of cross-country ski trail.

   e. Construct an open picnic shelter at the west end of the picnic area and repair the smaller shelter in the same area.

   f. Repair upper concession building and add electrical outlets.

   g. Construct two single-unit pit toilets for the cross-country ski trail.

   h. Add electrical hookups to 35 family campground sites.

   i. Develop 5 walk-in campsites. The sites would be accessible off of the outdoor group camp road in Section 6 along a mowed trail. Design would be flexible so that the sites could be moved periodically. This would allow for the opportunity to rest the sites within the scope of the design. Support facilities would include two portable single-unit pit toilets, a

trail head parking lot, picnic tables, fire rings, signing, and landscaping. Drinking water would be obtained at the group camp.

j. Develop 6 asphalt car-trailer or bus parking spaces at the swimming pool parking lot.

k. Develop handicapped access into the swimming pool.

l. Construct a 6-stall shower building in the family campground.

m. Remove a small earthen dam on Pleasure Valley Creek in Section 6 and apply erosion control methods.

n. Raze the Pleasure Valley lodge.

Total development costs are expected to be approximately $460,000. All proposed development will be dependent upon available funds and statewide priorities. Additional and/or up-to-date justification will also be required. There will be no increase in family drive-in-type campsites.

2. Management

a. Vegetative

The intent of the Master Plan is to maintain a diversity of cover and cover type wherever possible and to use the cover to support recreation. Because the park is over 90 percent wooded, the potential for maintaining open space is somewhat limited. Areas where open space exists (approximately 150 acres) should be kept open. The predominant vegetative cover of oak will be succeeded by more shade tolerant northern hardwood and central hardwood. Primary vegetative manipulation should be to promote safety and aesthetics. It is not an objective for Blue Mound to maximize timber production. At this time, no intensive cutting will occur except to perpetuate aspen, to remove undesirable species such as box elder, or to remove an area of diseased trees.

A planting program of native trees and shrubs will be carried out at three locations. Five acres will be planted for shade and screening at the proposed bicycle campground site. Ten acres will also be planted for shade and screening at the outdoor group camp and walk-in campsites. To break up the openness of the picnic areas and create interest, five acres will be planted.

b. Wildlife

Blue Mound provides nearly 1,125 acres of habitat that supports a wide variety of wildlife.

Where consistent with the overall objectives for the park, some measures should be taken such as the maintenance of open space with the edges being kept in brush. Diversity within each open space will be promoted, no uniform state of mowing or clearing will exist.

Permit only, muzzle-loading deer gun hunting will continue to coincide with the regular November season. This activity has been used to minimize browsing damage on the park and adjoining croplands and will continue as long as it is practical for game management reasons. No other form of hunting is authorized by Statute.

c. Facility

Blue Mound will continue to be operated as a sub-unit of the Governor Dodge Work Unit. Additional staff needed to manage the property beyond the existing two permanent, two seasonals, and 12 limited term (LTE) employees would include one LTE naturalist, one LTE maintenance worker, and one LTE public contact employee.

3. Land Acquisition (Figure 3)

As of June 30, 1984, state ownership at Blue Mound was 1,123.57 acres. Seven private parcels totalling 197.3 acres are proposed for purchase within the park boundary. No boundary expansion is proposed. It is also recommended that the present goal of 1,448 acres be revised to a more accurate goal of 1,325 acres.

4. Operations Cost and Revenue Potential

Total 1981-82 operations cost for Blue Mound was $131,204. With revenue for this same fiscal year amounting to $57,958, the percent of revenue to operations cost is slightly over 44 percent.

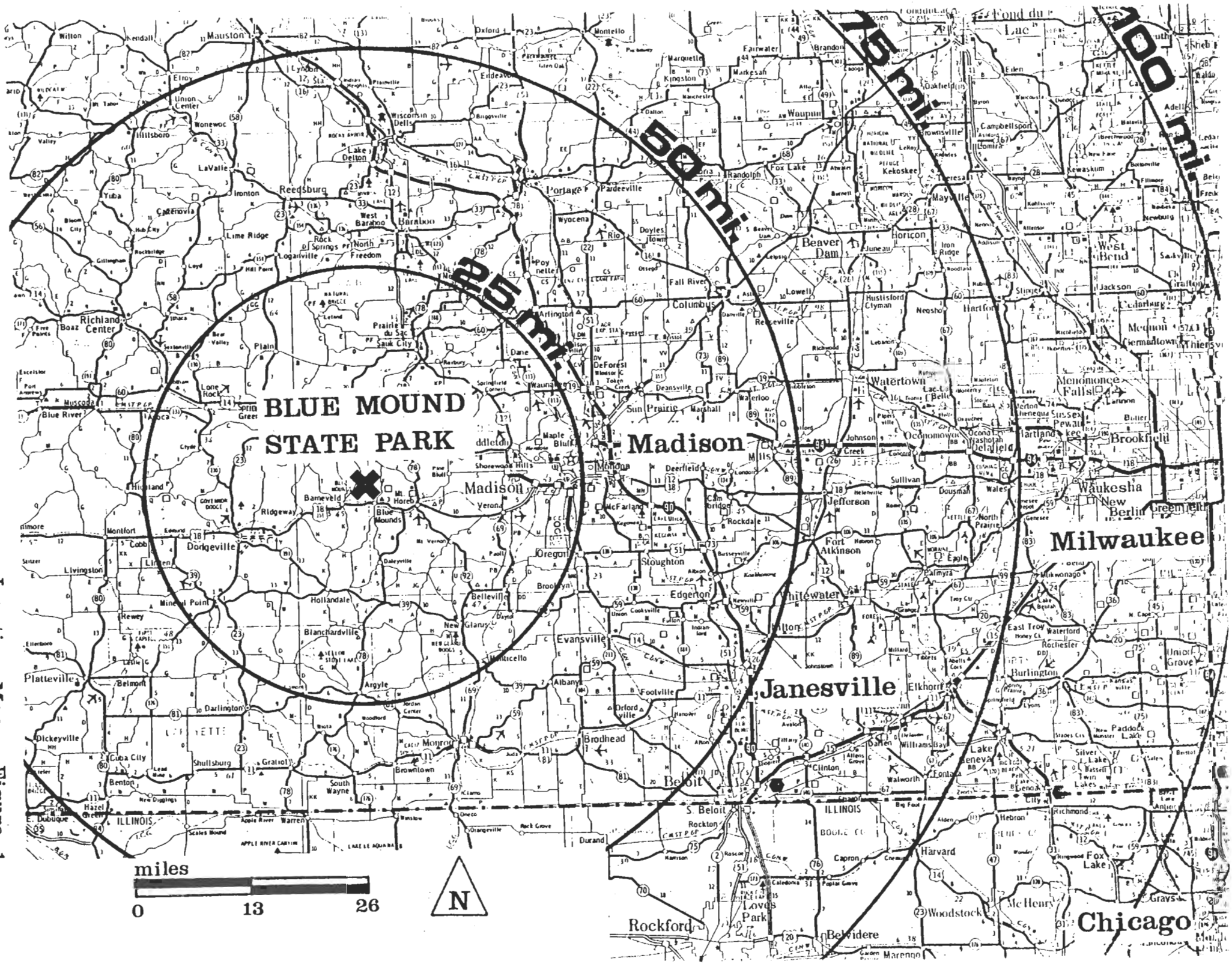
5. Roads, Entrances, and Private Inholdings

Mounds Park Road which provides access to the park from the Village of Blue Mounds bisects a portion of the property to the east. Berg Road (also a town road) is another interior public road which enters the east side of the park and junctions with Mounds Park Road.

Mounds Park Road complicates providing controlled access to proposed use areas and trails on the east portion of the park. Relocation of a portion of the road would be necessary to provide a suitable location for the proposed park entrance visitor station.

Blue Mound is a one-entrance park with a temporary park entrance/visitor station.

The seven private inholdings within the park boundaries do not affect the Department's ability to operate the property.



Location Map Figure 1

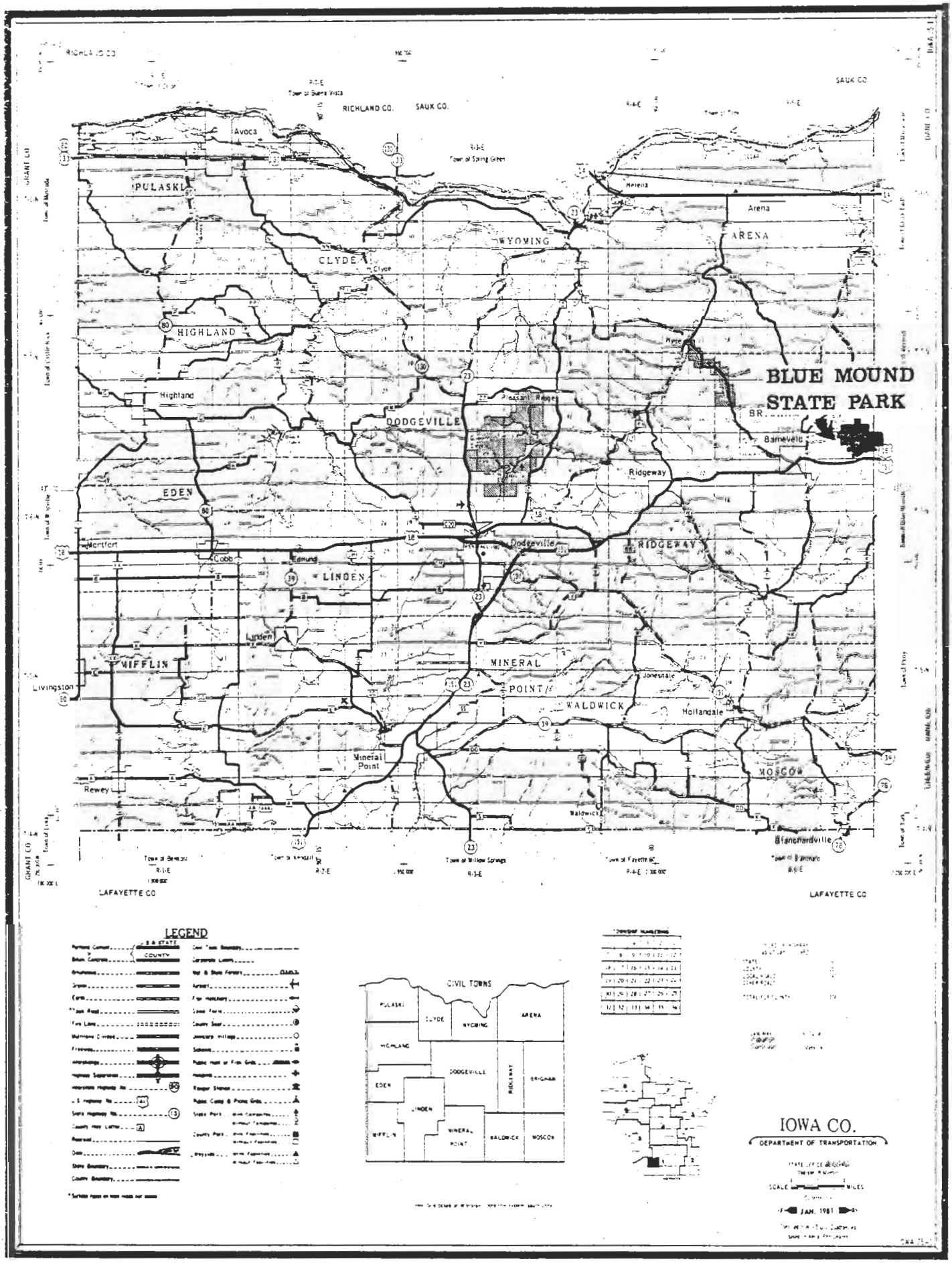
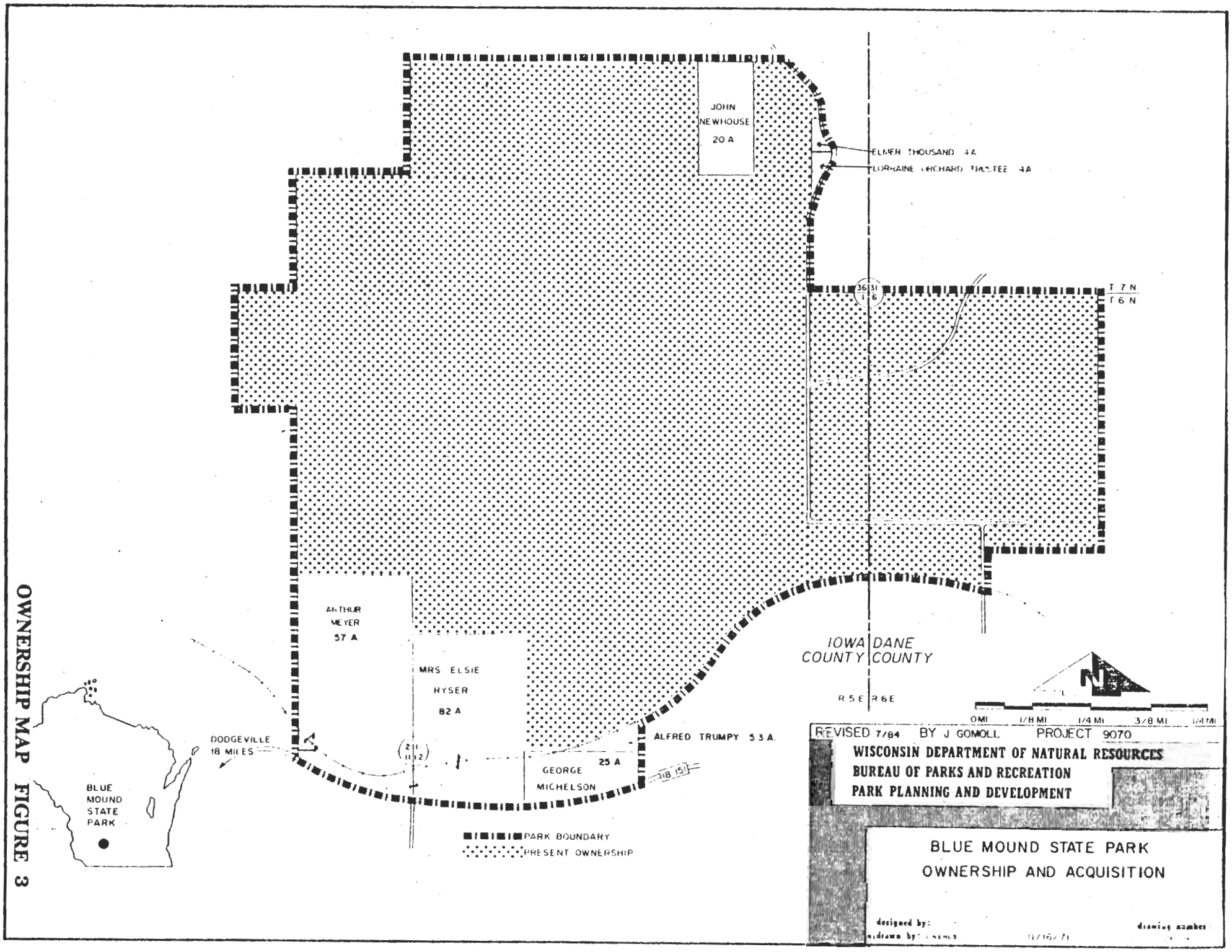
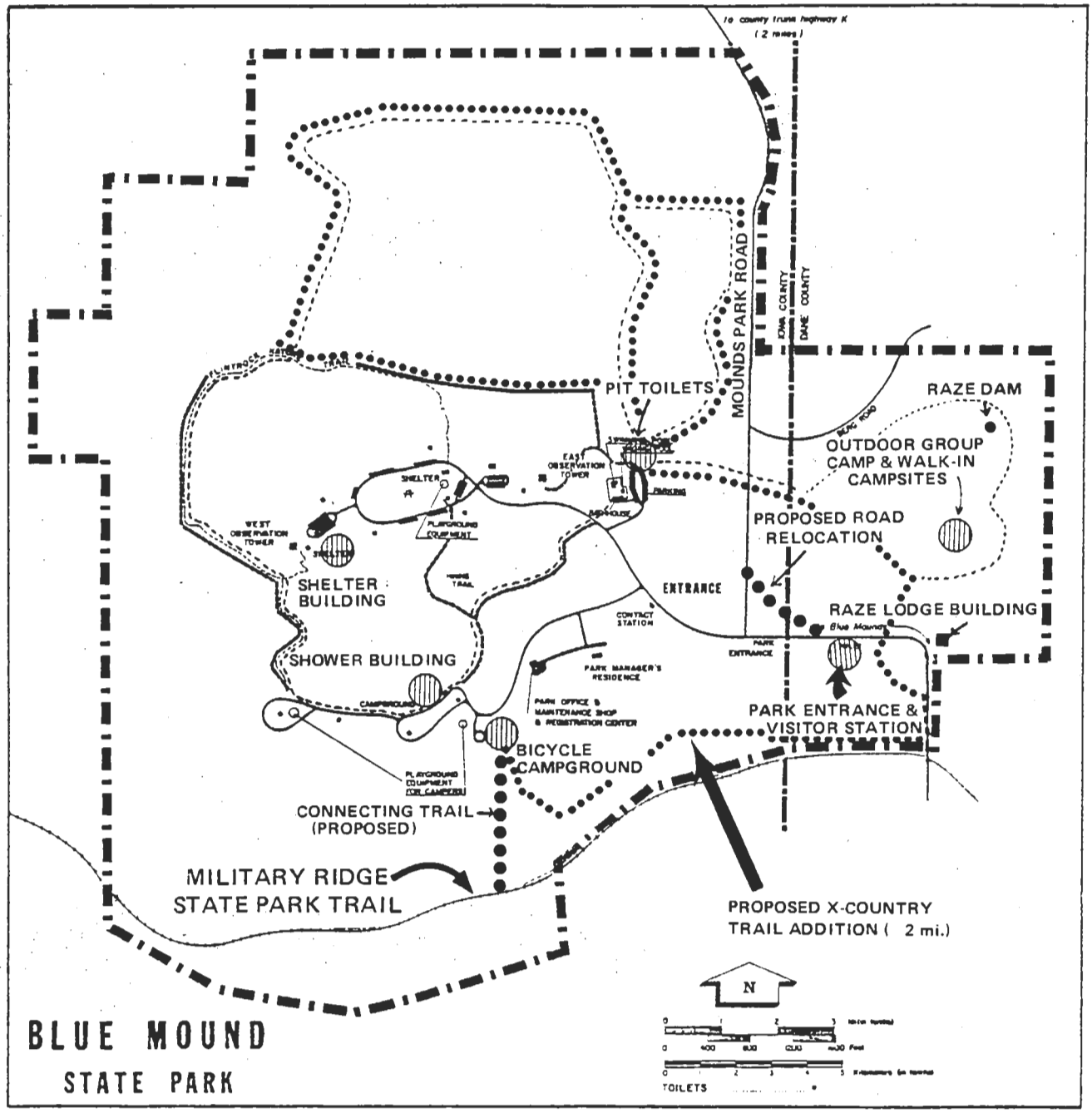

RICHLAND CO.
SAUK CO.
GRANT CO.
LAFAYETTE CO.
Avoca
PULASKI
WYOMING
CLYDE
Clyde
Arena
ARENA
HIGHLAND
Highland
Pleasant Ridge
DODGEVILLE
BLUE MOUND
STATE PARK
Barneveld
Ridgeway
EDEN
Mortfort
Cobb
Edmund
LINDEN
Dodgeville
RIDGEWAY
Linden
WIFFLIN
Livingston
MINERAL
POINT
Jonestale
WALDWICK
Hollandale
Mineral Point
MOSCOW
Rewey
Waldwick
Blanchardville
Town of Belmont
Town of Arenzville
Town of Willow Springs
Town of Fayette
Town of Blanchardville
LEGEND
COUNTY
CIVIL TOWNS
IOWA CO.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SCALE
MILES
JAN. 1981

Figure 2



OWNERSHIP MAP FIGURE 3

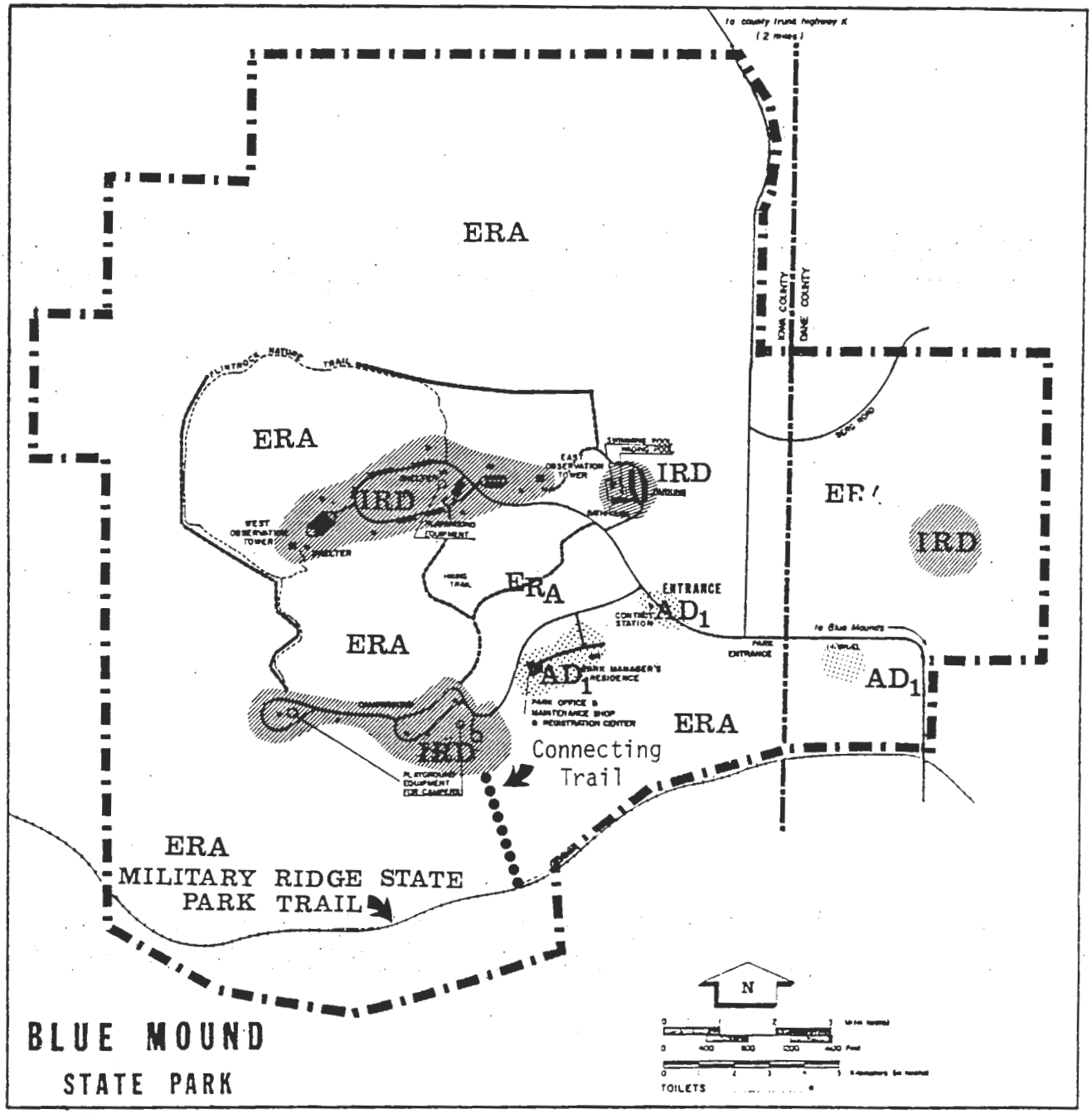


PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED UPGRADE OF SKI TRAILS FOR YEAR–ROUND USED (4 miles)

PRESENT X-COUNTRY TRAILS

DEVELOPMENT MAP—PRESENT & PROPOSED FIGURE 4

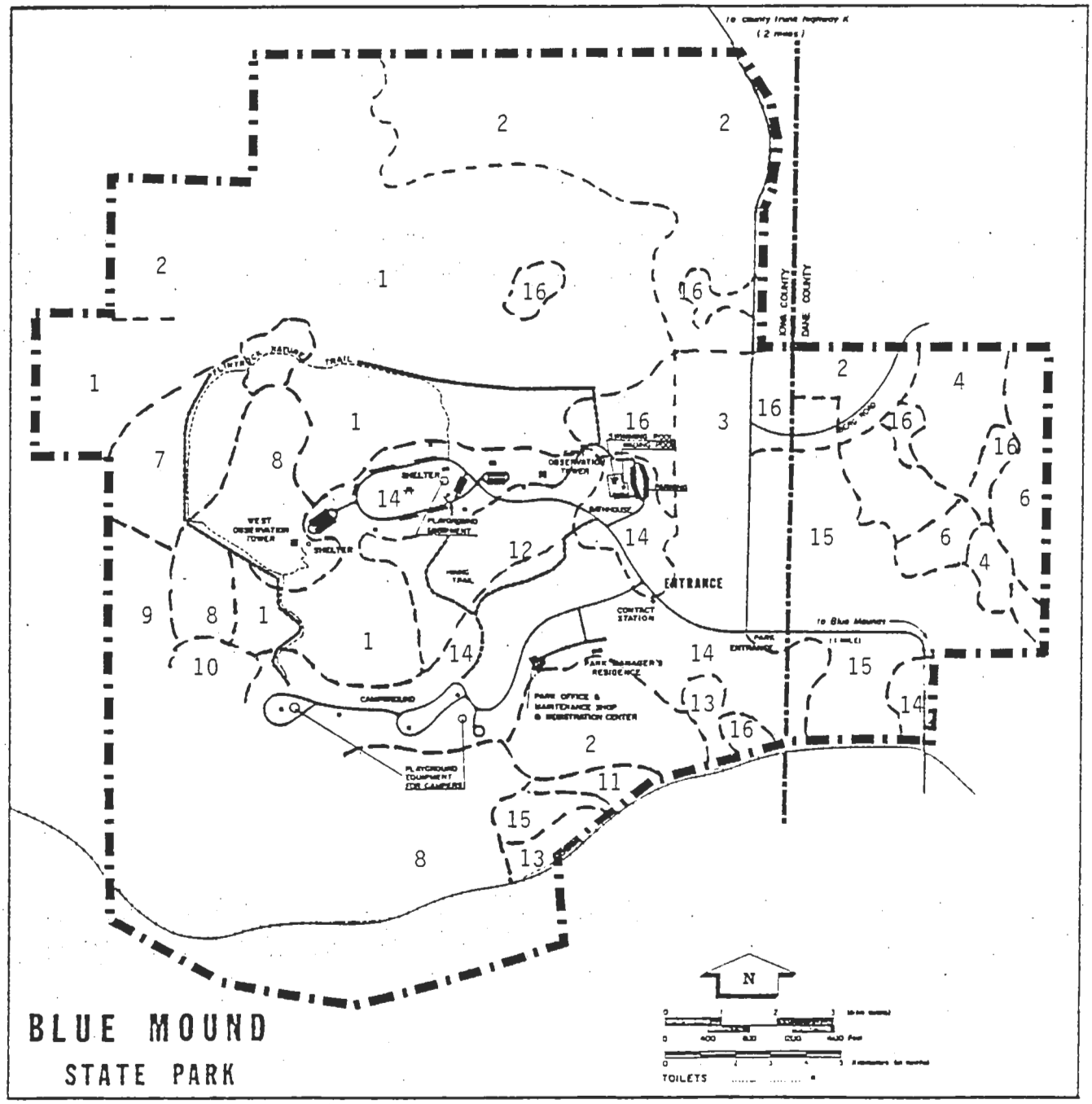


IRD Intensive Recreation Development (117 Acres)

AD_1 Administrative (5 Acres)

ERA Extensive Recreation Area (1,001 Acres)

Land Use Classification Map Figure 5



Vegetative Type Map Figure 6

Vegetative Type Legend

Stand No.	Timber Type	Acres (Approx.)
1	015+" / (NH)CHO-5"	330
2	011-15' / 05-11"	185
3	NH11-15" / NH5-11"	45
4	NR11-15" / NH5-11"	33
5	(O)NH15+" / NHO-5'''	19
6	NH11-15' / NH5-11'''	45
7	CH11-15" / CH5-11'	30
8	011-15" / CH5-11'	70
9	CH5-11" / CHO-5"	18
10	NHO-5' / Ub	13
11	CHO-5'''	9
12	015+' / 05-11'	49
13	(P)PW5-9'''	7
14	I	122
15	Gg	95
16	Ub / Gg	53
		1,123 acres

Refer to MC 8625.2 for a detailed explanation of the above symbols.

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Location (Figures 1 and 2)

Blue Mound State Park is located in Iowa County and Dane County. The property occupies parts of Section 35 and 36, T7N, R5E, Town of Brigham and parts of Section 1, 2, 11, and 12, T6N, R5E, Town of Brigham, all in Iowa County; and part of Section 6, T6N, R6E, Town of Blue Mounds in Dane County. The west and north boundaries are formed by private property, the east boundary by Mounds Park Road and private property, and the south boundary by Highway 18-151 and the Military Ridge Trail.

a. Relationship to Highways.

Main access to the park is via east-west U.S. Highway 18-151 which runs along the south boundary about one-half mile from the park's entrance. Entry to the park is via Mounds Park Road. The park is located about 3-1/2 miles west of north-south State Highway 78.

b. Relationship to Population Centers.

Distances from population centers to the project area are given below:

Mt. Horeb - 5 miles
Madison - 25 miles
Dubuque - 55 miles
Janesville-Beloit - 70 miles
Milwaukee - 101 miles
Chicago - 160 miles

Almost one million people live within an hour's drive of the park, and over eight million people live within three hours of the property.

2. History of the Area

Blue Mound received its name in 1766 from an Englishman, Jonathan Carver, who was exploring the Wisconsin River and noticed bluish "mountains" to the south. Blue Mound is the highest point in southern Wisconsin with an elevation of 1,716 feet above sea level. Indians used the property as far back as 7,000 years ago. Effigy Mounds are located just east of the park's boundary. The first permanent white settlers moved into the area in 1828. The mound served as a strategic point along the Old Military Road that ran from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien. The top of the park was the site of a race track in the 1880's. From 1933 to 1959, when the state park was established, the site was operated as a private recreation area.

3. Chronology of Property's Establishment and Development

April 29, 1959 - The property was established as Blue Mound State Park.
1961 - Campground and picnic area established.
1966 - Observation towers constructed.
1971 - Nature trail developed.
1972 - Swimming pool and the shop-storage building constructed.
1974 - Main picnic shelter constructed.
1977 - Cross-country ski trails developed.

4. Past and Present Management Activities

Blue Mound State Park has served a variety of uses. In addition to private recreational uses such as horse racing, picnicking, swimming, fishing, and baseball, the park has served as the base for a variety of radio towers. Some portions of the property have been grazed and farmed at one time, and the woodlots have been harvested. It is also possible that some exploratory mining has occurred.

The park is managed to meet both day use and camping needs and currently has an annual attendance of more than 170,000 (1983). Of this, more than 19,000 were family campers.

Park facilities consist of the following (see Figure 4):

1. Family campground with 78 sites and a capacity for approximately 300 users.
2. One picnic area of 35 acres in size.
3. Two open picnic shelters.
4. One picnic area concessions building.
5. Two 40-foot high wooden observation towers.
6. Ten pit-toilet buildings.
7. One service-maintenance building.
8. One brick storage building (WIBA building).
9. One park-entrance control building.
10. One park manager's residence.
11. One enclosed shelter building.
12. Two high capacity wells serving shop-storage building, residence, swimming pool, 15 fountains, one frost-free hydrant.
13. One sewage treatment system (lagoon).
14. 2.25 miles of two-way blacktop park road.
15. .75 mile of one-way blacktop park road.
16. 337 blacktop parking spaces.
17. 1.8 miles of nature trail.
18. 1.5 miles of hiking trails.
19. Seven miles of cross-country ski trail.
20. Two miles of snowmobile trail.
21. One trailer sanitary dumping station.
22. 174 picnic tables.
23. 46 grills and 78 fire rings.
24. One heated swimming pool and associated bathhouse.
25. One metal unheated storage building.

The project area is part of the Governor Dodge Work Unit that includes Blue Mound, Governor Dodge, Tower Hill, and Wyalusing State Parks, as well as the Military Ridge State Park Trail.

The following personnel are employed annually at the park and may have secondary job responsibilities in the Governor Dodge Work Unit:

2 permanent
2 seasonal
12 limited-term employees

The following are the attendance figures for the last five years.

Years	Visitation	Campers
1979	125,182	17,954
1980	126,869	18,092
1981	131,385	18,360
1982	147,241	19,192
1983	171,185	19,148

B. RESOURCE CAPABILITY AND GEOLOGY

1. Geology

Blue Mound State Park lies within the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin, that part of the state that was untouched by the glaciers that have periodically invaded from the north. The unglaciated area has been eroding continually for more than 400 million years. Blue Mound is one of the few remnants in southwestern Wisconsin that gives a cross section of the many layers of rock that represent the numerous ancient geologic periods. The mound remains because of a cap of hard Niagara dolomite from the Silurian Period that has protected it from erosion. The dolomite is derived from what was limestone sediment deposited on the bottoms of ancient seas that once covered the area. Under the dolomite cap are found layers of shale, sandstone, and limestone of the Ordovician Period. Next is found a thick layer of sandstone and some limestone of the Cambrian Period. Under this lies the hard granite of the pre-Cambrian Period. The mound stands as much as 415 feet above the surrounding countryside. The park has a number of small caves and the potential exists for considerably larger ones yet undiscovered.

2. Soils

Over 50 percent of Blue Mounds State Park and almost all of the side slopes of the mound are made up of Derinda Stony silt loams and associated soil types. These soils tend to be stony to very stony, with a high erosion potential and are moderately well drained except on lower slopes where seepage areas are common. Derinda silt loams are dominant on the flatter, broader slopes and ridges of the eastern area of the property. This series has deep, moderate to

well-drained, moderately fertile soil. The top of Blue Mound is made up of Dubuque silt loams and stony silt loams. The crown of the mound, where the picnic area is located, consists of the deep, fertile, Dubuque silt loam. This soil is well-drained and has low erosion potential and was probably blown onto the uplands during glacial times from the flood plains of what is now the Mississippi River. Around the base of Blue Mound in drainage ways are steep stony or rocky lands. This type consists almost entirely of boulders and rock and is the residue of slope erosion. One other major silt group is found in the park. Poorly drained, fertile silty clay loams are found on benches on the lower slopes of the mound and is typified by the Millsdale silty clay loam. This soil is best used for extensive recreation.

3. Water Resources

Due primarily to the sloping upland nature of the park, there are no significant water features. There are, however, a number of springs and seepage areas on the property and a small seepage pond of less than an acre in size located in Section 6 on the east end of the park. A small spring-fed stream called Pleasure Valley Creek is also located in this area of the park. This creek originates a few hundred feet south of the park in the Village of Blue Mounds and has created a well pronounced, deep, narrow valley. The creek may, at times, contain some species of forage fish.

4. Vegetative Cover (Figure 6)

Of the park's approximately 1,120 acres, about 1,070 are forested and 150 acres are a mixture of upland brush and grass. Ecologically, the forested area of the park is in a period of transition from intolerant species to more tolerant climax species. Oak (white, red, black) are presently the dominant and more intolerant tree species. They are being replaced by northern hardwoods (mainly sugar maple and basswood) and/or central hardwoods (black walnut, black cherry, ash, hackberry and hickory). The climax species are site dependent. Northern hardwoods will be dominant on better soils of moister, cooler sites, while central hardwoods would take over drier sites. A pine plantation of about seven acres on two sites is found on the southern part of the property. The cover types as soon on the property are:

Oaks - 228 acres
Northern hardwoods - 120 acres
Central hardwoods - 47 acres
Oak - Northern hardwood - 19 acres
Oak - Central hardwood - 77 acres
Oak - Central hardwood - 320 acres
Northern hardwood - oak - upland brush - 13 acres
White pine plantation - 7 acres
Grass - 92 acres
Upland brush - grass - 52 acres
Intensive use area (recreation) - 122 acres

A considerable portion of the site is mature timber. Considerable damage was done to the forest cover due to the major ice storm of 1976. Some mortality occurred due to storm-induced weakness and disease. The overstory in some areas has deteriorated because of the storm and old age. Northern hardwoods and central hardwoods are generally smaller and suppressed by the oaks.

5. Wildlife

The species of wildlife present at Blue Mound are similar to those found in the rest of southwestern Wisconsin. Mammals found within the park are white-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, gray and red fox, cottontail rabbit, mink, coyote, badger, least weasel, gray and fox squirrel, short-tailed shrews, woodchuck, prairie mole, chipmunk, striped ground squirrel, flying squirrel, deer mouse, white-footed mouse, meadow jumping mouse, meadow mole, prairie vole, and the common bat species. The only hunting allowed in the park is a nine-day permit muzzle-loader gun deer season held in November. Permit deer hunting began in the park in 1979 to minimize browsing damage within the park and adjacent croplands.

The most common gamebird found in the park is the ruffed grouse. Bobwhite quail are also present in small numbers along the fringe areas of the property where the woodland cover is patchy or along adjacent farmland. It is also likely that ring-necked pheasant and gray partridge would be found occasionally on fringe areas of the park. Wild turkeys have been stocked in Iowa County and have taken up residence at Blue Mound.

Over 100 species of birds (see Appendix) utilize the park during the year. The most common nongame species are: downy woodpecker, eastern wood pewee, bluejay, black-capped chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, gray catbird, robin, red-eyed vireo, rose-breasted grosbeak and indigo bunting.

The following reptiles are found on the property: bullsnake, fox snake, eastern and plain garter snake, hognose snake, brown snake, and milk snake. Frogs are leopard, green, chorus, and gray tree. American toads may be found as well.

The only threatened species found at Blue Mound is the Cooper's Hawk, which is a migrant and does not likely nest at the park.

6. Site Inventory

Undeveloped Area	1,002	acres
Trails	15.7	acres
Family Campground	40	acres
Picnic Area	35	acres
Roads and Parking	8.5	acres
Swimming Pool	4	acres
Maintenance, Administrative & Residential Areas	4	acres
Other Developed (sewage lagoon, town road, Pleasure Valley lodge, service roads)	15	acres

7. Land Use Potential (Figure 5)

   Lands within the park boundary are classified as Intensive Recreational Development (IRD), Administrative (AD), and Extensive Recreation Area (ERA).

   Intensive Recreation Development accounts for approximately 117 acres and includes camping, picnicking, trail use, the swimming pool, observation towers, roads, and parking.

   About five acres of the property, including the temporary park entrance visitor station, proposed PEVS, and the shop-storage area are classified as Administrative.

   The remainder of the site is the Extensive Recreation Area and consists generally of the property's back country and buffer area. This classification accounts for 1,001 acres.

8. Historical and Archaeological Features

   The State Historical Society has no record of archaeological or historical sites on the park property, however, they believe there is a high probability that some may exist. They recommend that prior to undertaking any ground-disturbing activities within the property, that the DNR contact the Society to determine whether an archaeological survey is needed.

C. MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

1. The site of the park entrance visitor station (PEVS) is on the steep downslope of the mound which creates a difficult situation for park users waiting in line at the contact station especially those with large recreational vehicles or trailers. It is also inadequate in size to allow for proper sticker sales, campground registration, and questions. Locating the PEVS at the base of the mound would improve control in the park as well as increasing the efficiency of public contact.

2. Mounds Park Road bisects the property east of the mound. Relocation of a portion of the road to the north and east would reduce confusion and safety problems and would allow for an appropriate location for the PEVS.

3. The older shelter on the west side of the picnic area is deteriorating.

4. There are no toilet facilities at or within a quarter mile of the cross-country ski trail head.

5. Erosion has occurred on Pleasure Valley Creek due to heavy rains and at a number of smaller sites in other areas of the park.

6. Some disease and death of the park's woodlands has been occurring due to damage from the 1976 ice storm.

7. The Pleasure Valley shelter building is deteriorating. It is located at an area remote from most park activities.

8. There is no access into the swimming pool for the handicapped.

D. RECREATION NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATIONS

Blue Mound State Park is located primarily in Region 8 of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 1981. However, the park contains part of its ownership in the west end of populous Region 9. While seventy percent of Region 8's population lies in rural areas, the reverse is true for Region 9. Because of the park's location, it is readily accessible from highly populated areas of southern Wisconsin as well as population centers of northern Illinois and northeast Iowa.

The following are the recreational types provided at Blue Mound and the 1981 SCORP's supply, demand and need data relative to that type. SCORP's need projections are made only to 1984.

1. Camping

The 78 unitized campsites at Blue Mound sustained 19,148 family camper days in 1983. Region 8 supplies a total of 1,917 developed campsites. According to SCORP, an additional 1,790 campsites will be needed by 1984 in Region 8 and 2,280 campsites in Region 9.

2. Picnicking

Blue Mound has 35 acres of developed picnic area.

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

3. Cross-Country Skiing

Blue Mound has 7 miles of cross-country ski trails.

The anticipated growth in cross-county skiing will result in a increased need for ski trails. By 1984, there will be an estimated need for 360 miles of cross-country ski trails in Region 8 and 1,564 miles in Region 9.

4. Hiking

The park only contains 1.5 miles of designated hiking trail as well as a 1.8 mile nature trail which is also used for hiking.

SCORP states that there is a need for an additional 117 miles in Region 8 and 541 miles in Region 9 by 1984 over what exists already.

E. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

1. No Change - Status Quo

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

2. Intensive Development

Expand the park boundary, develop more picnic areas and family camping areas. In addition, develop specialized camp areas for walk-in or backpackers for Military Ridge Trail users and outdoor group campers. Double the amount of hiking trails. Provide for horseback trails on the east side of the park. Utilized the old ski shelter as an indoor group camp. Develop a new PEVS at the base of the hill. Finally, convert the old radio station building into a nature center.

3. Moderate Development

This recommended alternative allows for moderate improvements which includes construction of a new park entrance visitor station, an outdoor group campground, bikers campground, trail improvements including pit toilets for cross-country skiers, new open picnic shelter, walk-in campsites, handicapped access and car/trailer or bus parking for the swimming pool, electrical hookups and shower building for the family campground, repair of several existing park structures, and removal of the Pleasure Valley lodge, and a small earthen dam. Horseback trails would not be permitted, and finally, the park boundary would remain unchanged.

PPENDIX. List of Wild Bird Species Observed in Blue Mound State Park, 1979-80.[1]

pecies	Season[2]	Status[3]	Species	Season[2]	Status[3]
harp-shinned Hawk	M	U	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	M	U
ooper's Hawk	M	U	Hairy Woodpecker	Y	C-A
ed-tailed Hawk	Y	C	Downy Woodpecker	Y	C-A
road-winged Hawk	M	U	Eastern Kingbird	S	C
merican Kestrel	Y	C	Great Crested Flycatcher	S	C
uffed Grouse	Y	C	Eastern Phoebe	M	U
oodcock	S	U	Least Flycatcher	M	C
plland Plover	S	U	Yellow-billed Flycatcher	M-S	U
ourning Dove	Y	C	Willow Flycatcher	M	U
ellow-billed Cuckoo	S	R	Eastern Wood Pewee	S	A
lack-billed Cuckoo	S	U	Olive-sided Flycatcher	M	R
reat Horned Owl	Y	U	Tree Swallow	S	C
arred Owl	Y	R	Barn Swallow	S	C
hip-poor-will	S	R	Purple Martin	S	C
ommon Nighthawk	S	U	Blue Jay	Y	A
himney Swift	S	C	American Crow	Y	C
uby-throated Hummingbird	S	U	Black-capped Chickadee	Y	A
ommon Flicker	Y	A	Tufted Titmouse	Y	U
ileated Woodpecker	Y	R	White-breasted Nuthatch	Y	A
ed-bellied Woodpecker	Y	C	Brown Creeper	M	C
ed-head Woodpecker	Y	A	Northern House Wren	S	C-A
inter Wren	M	U	Black-throated Blue Warbler	M	U
ray Catbird	S	C-A	Blackburnian Warbler	M	C
rown Thrasher	S	C	Chestnut-sided Warbler	M-S	C-U
merican Robin	S	A	Bay-breasted Warbler	M	C
ood Thrush	S	C	Blackpoll Warbler	M	C
ermit Thrush	M	U	Pine Warbler	M	U
ainson's Thrush	M	U	Palm Warbler	M	C
eery	M	U	Ovenbird	S	U
lue-gray Gnatcatcher	S	U	Connecticut Warbler	M	U
olden-crowned Kinglet	M-W	U	Common Yellowthroat	S	C
uby-crowned Kinglet	M	C	Wilson's Warbler	M	U
edar Waxwing	S	C	American Redstart	S	U
uropean Starling	Y	C	Yellow-rumped Warbler	M	A
ellow-throated Vireo	S	U	Eastern Meadowlark	S	A
olitary Vireo	M	U	Red-wing Blackbird	S	A
ed-eyed Vireo	S	C	Northern Oriole	S	A
arbling Vireo	S	U	Common Grackle	S	A
lack and White Warbler	M	U	Brownheaded Cowbird	S	C
olden-Winged Warbler	S	U	Scarlet Tanager	S	C
lue-Winged Warbler	S	U	Northern Cardinal	Y	C
ennessee Warbler	M	C	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	S	A
ashville Warbler	M	C	Indigo Bunting	S	A
orthern Parula Warbler	M	U	Purple Finch	M-W	U
agnolia Warbler	M	C	American Goldfinch	Y	C
ufus-sided Towhee	S	C	Vesper Sparrow	S	U
orthern Junco	W	C	American Tree Sparrow	W	C
hipping Sparrow	S	U	Field Sparrow	S	C
hite-throated Sparrow	M	C	Fox Sparrow	M	U
ong Sparrow	S	A	Acadian Flycatcher	-	-

PhD thesis. Robert W. Howe. University of Wisconsin - Madison Zoology Department.
Y=year-round resident, S=summer residents, W=winter resident, M=migrant.
A=abundant, C=common, U=uncommon, R=rare.

922L

The State of Wisconsin

SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

June 6, 1984

IN REPLY REFER TO: 2100

Mr. David Weizenicker
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Dave:

We have reviewed the Blue Mounds State Park Concept Master Plan and generally support the plan's goals, objectives and proposed management.

However, we question the recommended vegetation management proposed on page 3, as it applies to the park's 1,120 acres. We could agree with the proposed management if applied to the intensive recreation zone and administrative area of some 122 acres.

The natural vegetative cover described on page 17 is reasonably diverse and should persist under natural succession for the foreseeable future. Therefore we recommend that within the extensive recreation area of Blue Mound State Park and other state parks, vegetation management be limited to that required for safety of park users and allowing natural processes to shape the vegetation type. Under most circumstances, natural succession will meet the objective of providing a diversity of tree species and age classes for multiple resource values and public uses.

Cordially,

Forest Stearns

Forest Stearns
Chairman

25350

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: July 20, 1984 File Ref: 2510

To: Cliff Germain - ER/4

From: D. Weizenicker

Subject: SAPC Comments on Blue Mound State Park Master Plan

This is in response to the Council's comments on the Blue Mound Master Plan. The following will address the Council's question on the vegetative management proposal for the park.

The Vegetative Management Section on page 3 has been modified by eliminating the proposal to perpetuate oak stands in certain areas of the park. Natural succession will take place except where aspen is to be perpetuated, weed trees such as box elder are to be removed, or areas of diseased trees are to be removed for safety and aesthetics.

We thank the Council for reviewing the Blue Mound Master Plan.

DJK:sb

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

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: June 14, 1984 *File Ref:* 2400

To: Dave Weizenicker - P&R/4

From: Dick Lindberg - FOR/4 RL

Subject: Blue Mounds S.P. Master Plan Review

The council has advised me that this park has no wild resource values of its immediate interest. However, it did request that I pass along the following suggestions for the next draft of the plan.

1. The presence of horse trails and horses in the park poses unique problems related to soil erosion and vegetation losses that need to be addressed in the plan.

2. Reading of the plan is made more difficult by the several abbreviations used. References to DNR manuals which explain the abbreviations are of little help to the reader who can't access a proper manual.

3. The map does not delineate the location of the trail systems discussed in the plan.

RL:dj

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: July 20, 1984 File Ref 2510

To: R. Lindberg - FOR/4

From: D. Weizenicker

Subject: WRAC Comments on Blue Mound State Park Master Plan

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

1. The presence of horse trails and horses in the park poses unique problems related to soil erosion and vegetation losses that need to be addressed in the plan.

Department Response:
The "Intensive Development" alternative mentions providing horseback trails on the east side of the park. However, the third alternative, "Moderate Development," is the recommended alternative which does specify no horseback riding in the park. The master plan was rewritten so that it is clearer in the final draft which alternative is recommended.

2. Reading of the plan is made more difficult by the several abbreviations used. References to DNR manuals which explain the abbreviations are of little help to the reader who can't access a proper manual.

Department Response:
We note that the abbreviations for park entrance visitor station (PEVS) and Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) are adequately explained on page 2 of the master plan. The various Land Use Classification abbreviations used throughout the plan are also explained.

3. The map does not delineate the location of the trail systems discussed in the plan.

Department Response:
The existing and proposed cross-country ski trails referred to in the master plan will be shown on the development map (Figure 4). The hiking and nature trail is shown.

We thank the Council for its review of the master plan.

DJK:sb

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

For All DNR Type II Actions, Except Adm. Rules
FORM 1600-1 REV. 3-82

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

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DISTRICT OR BUREAU
Southern
DOCKET NUMBER
TYPE LIST DESIGNATION(S)
d 4

#1706

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

(ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)
(REFERENCE INFORMATION SOURCES UTILIZED)

Applicant: Department of Natural Resources

Title of Proposal: Blue Mound State Park Master Plan - Concept Element

Location: County Dane and Iowa Counties
Township 6 (Dane) 7 (Iowa) North, Range 6 (Dane) 5 (Iowa) East, West
Section(s) 6 (Dane), 35,36, 1, 2,11, 12(Iowa)
Political Town Blue Mounds (Dane) Brigham (Iowa)

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. General Description (brief overview) Purchase five remaining parcels within the existing boundary totalling 324.33 acres to complete the acreage goal of 1,448 acres. Construct a Park Entrance Visitors Station (PEVS) on the east side of park with new road parking and contact building. Construct an outdoor group camp for 100 users with support facilities including gravel road and parking for 30 cars, pit toilet and drinking water. Construct a 15 unit bicycle campground in support of the Military Ridge State Park Trail to be located south of family campground. Support facilities include connecting trail

(see attached sheet)

2. Purpose and Need (include history and background as appropriate) Development of the outdoor group, walk-in and bicycle campgrounds and additional trails would help satisfy the requirements of the State Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The development of the Park Entrance Visitors Station would replace an inadequate site that is located on a down slope as well as improving visitor control within the park. Construction of a new shelter building would replace a small, deteriorating shelter. Toilet facilities on the cross-country ski trail would provide badly needed sanitary facilities. There is no handicapped access into the swimming pool. The adding of electricity to the concessions building and campground would modernize and upgrade the park' capabilitie
3. Authorities and Approvals (list statutory authority and other relevant local, state and federal permits or approvals required)

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

4. Estimated Cost and Funding Source

$385,000 (1983 cost) ORAP Funding

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

The addition of outdoor group camping, walk-in camping and bicycle camping would involve about five, ten and three acres respectively. The walk-in sites would not be permanent and would vary in location from year to year. Very little topographic change would occur as the sites are quite flat and construction would conform to the landscape. Construction of the Park Entrance Visitors Station would involve about two or three acres and would involve only minor topographic change.

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

None

7. **Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures**

The toilet buildings and picnic shelter would all be located on level sites. Only minor excavation would be required for construction. Road construction for the outdoor group camp and walk-in sites would total about 1,000 feet in length and would occur on a quite flat site with little topographic manipulation. The trail for the bicycle campground would total about 1,500 feet in length, would conform to the landscape and would require very little manipulation of the topography.
(See attached sheet)

8. **Emissions and Discharges**

Some additional sewage would be created by increased development in the three new campgrounds and at the cross-country ski trail complex. Toilets to support all of the new development would be self contained. Some minimal oil and gasoline residue would be deposited upon the adjacent land from automobile traffic using the new roads and parking lots.

9. **Other Changes**

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

Figure 1. Regional Location Map
Figure 2. County Location Map
Figure 3. Ownership Map
Figure 4. Development Map
Figure 5. Land Use Classification Map
Figure 6. Vegetation Type Map

Information Based On (check all that apply):

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

11. Physical (topography - soils - water - air - wetland amounts and types)
The western two-thirds of the site consists generally of a large mound that rises over 400 feet above the surrounding landscape. The mound is a remnant of a Niagra dolomite cap. The east third of the site is below the mound and is generally flat to gently rolling with a small creek valley on the east border of the park. The soils are almost all upland and stony with the only wetland soils being located in the creek valley bottom.

(see attached sheet)

12. Biological

a. Flora The site is dominated by forested land. Of the park's owned 1,120 acres, about 1,070 acres is forested and 150 acres is a mixture of upland brush and grass. The forested cover consists of 228 acres of oaks, 120 acres of northern hardwoods, 47 acres of central hardwoods, 19 acres of oaks - northern hardwoods, 397 acres of oaks - central hardwoods, 13 acres of northern hardwoods - oaks - upland brush and seven acres of white pine plantation.

b. Fauna

(see attached sheet)

The park contains deer, raccoon, oppossum, gray and red fox, cottontail rabbit, mink, coyote, badger, least weasel, gray and fox squirrel and a variety of smaller squirel, mice and other mammals. Over 100 species of birds utilize the park during

(see attached sheet)

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

The acquisition of 324 acres would create a zoning change from agricultural to recreational.

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

The State Historical Society has identified no archaeological or historical sites within the park boundary.

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

15. Physical (include visual if applicable)

Construction may result in some disruption, but efforts would be made to have this occur during the off-season. Long term benefits would far outweigh any short term disruption.

16. Biological

Few trees if any, would be removed in the areas of campground development. All three areas would be located generally on forest edge areas or in the open. Efforts would be made to prevent any unnecessary removal of vegetation. The Park Entrance Visitors Station would be constructed upon open land. Some animal displacement may occur during construction but this amount would be minimal.

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

Development and construction would play a significant role for a moderate increase in attendance from approximately 147,000 visitors in 1982 to 175,000 visitors by 1993. This would result in higher traffic counts on local and regional roads. Increased attendance in the park would have a beneficial effect on the area's economy. The acquisition would remove 324 acres from the tax role of Brigham Township. Payment in lieu of taxes would be made. No condemnation would be used on the purchase of the 324 acres.

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

No endangered or threatened species of any type are known to be affected by the proposal.

19. Probable Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided

Some wildlife and vegetation would be destroyed or disrupted during construction. The increase in attendance would put added traffic pressure on area and regional highways which may result in some additional repair and the increased potential for accidents.

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

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

(1) No change - Status Quo. The property would continue operating as it has in the past. No organized attempt would be made to overcome the existing problems and there would be little change in the degree of resource protection. Any development would be done as it became necessary or desirable, if and when funds became available. By continuing present level, the direction of the park would be contrary to the findings of the State Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which calls for an increase of recreational opportunities in Southern Wisconsin.

(2) Intensive Development. Purchase more land, develop more picnic grounds and family camping areas. In addition, develop specialized camp areas for walk-in users or backpackers, for Military Ridge Trail users and outdoor group campers. Double the amount of hiking trails. Provide for horseback trails on the east side of the park. Utilize the old ski shelter as an indoor group camp. Develop a new Park Entrance Visitor Station at the base of the hill. Finally, convert the old radio station building into a nature center. This alternative would substantially contribute to fulfilling the directives of SCORP, but the ability of the park to physically sustain a large increase in users is questionable. The park's hillside soils, which make up a substantial portion of the property, are highly erodable. Trail development potential is limited and should be closely monitored. Expansion of the picnic area is limited beyond the top of the mound. It is considered more important to develop a campground for Military Ridge users, a walk-in campground and an outdoor group campground than additional family campground units. Potential funding for the project is expected to be limited. While the soils on the east side of the property may be condusive to development of horseback trails, the area available is considered too small to support a reasonable horseback ride and the area is considered best used for the development of outdoor group and walk-in camp facilities. While the development of a nature center in the park is desirable, the renovation costs of the old radio station building would be prohibitive. The development of the ski shelter into an indoor group camp would be unfeasible as the building is located on an undesirable and isolated site.

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

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

The significant action would be an increase in attendance as noted in item 17. This would positively benefit the area's economy, while creating a moderate increase on area and regional traffic.

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

None

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

Development would occur entirely on Department owned land.

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

None

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

Since no significant topographic disruption would occur to the landscape, development could be removed at some later date and the site returned to a presettlement condition.

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

☐ No

☒ **Yes, refer to item 17.**

30. **Other:**

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

31.

Date	Contact	Comment Summary
December 22, 1982	Kim Peters-State Historical Society	Confirmation that there are no kno archeological or historic sites on the property.
Continuing	Norbert Karr-Blue Mound Superintendent	Variety of information concerning property and management
Continuing	Blair Anderson	Fire control
Continuing	Tom Hauge	Wildlife Management
Continuing	Gene Van Dyck	Fish Management & Water Resources
Continuing	Jim Widder	Forest Management
Continuing	LeRoy Wiesner	Conservation Warden

Project Name: Blue Mound State Park Master Plan - Concept Element

County: Dane & Iowa

RECOMMENDATION

EIS Not Required..... ☒

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

Refer to Office of the Secretary..... ☐

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

Request EIR..... ☐

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

SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR	DATE
David L. Aslakson	11-21-83
NOTED: AREA SUPERVISOR OR BUREAU DIRECTOR	DATE
James [illegible] for D. Weizinecker	1/3/84

Number of responses to public notice 1

Public response log attached?..... 1

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OR DIRECTOR OF BEI (OR DESIGNEE)	DATE
Lewis J. Behanny	5/18/84

This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate District Director or the Director of BEI.

PROJECT SUMMARY (continued)

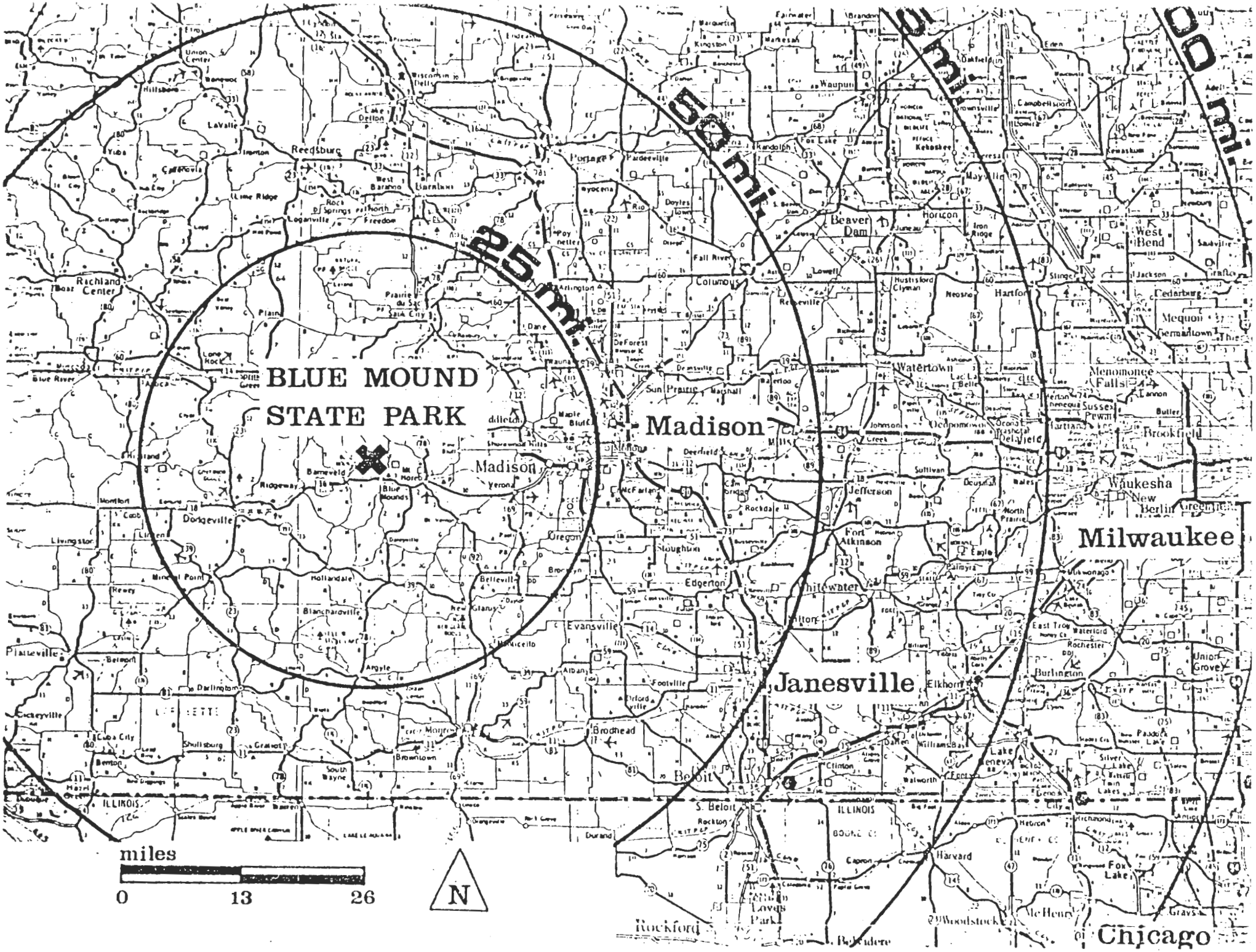
6. to the Military Ridge, a loop campground trail, toilets, showers and drinking water. Upgrade four miles of cross-country ski trail so can be used for hiking. Construct two miles of cross-country ski trail. Construct open picnic shelter at west end of picnic area. Repair concession building and add electricity. Construct two single unit pit toilets for the cross-country ski trail. Add electrical hookups to 35 family campground sites. Develop 5 walk-in campsites near outdoor group camp with support facilities including portable toilets, trail head parking lot, drinking water and mowed trail. Develop six asphalt car-trailer parking spaces at the swimming pool parking lot. Develop handicapped access ramp into the swimming pool.

7. The proposed park entrance visitor station (PEVS) will likely be a standard design; wood frame, slab on grade, pitched roof, and a drop ceiling. Total building size will be about 850 sq. ft. which includes two offices, employee restrooms, a small utility room, and visitor services center. The project will also include extension of electrical service, installation of telephone and radio communications system, walks, and landscaping. Septic treatment will be determined by engineering and may be limited to either holding tanks or hooking into the Village of Blue Mounds sewage system. A new well may be needed for the PEVS depending on the recommendation of an engineer, or it may be feasible to connect with an existing park well over 2,000 feet to the west. Roads and parking area for the PEVS layout will require some cut and fill but since the site is relatively level this will be minimal. Installation of utilities may require trenching and backfilling. Minimal tree clearing will be needed. Mounds Park town road will be relocated to the north and east of its present route to permit proper location of the PEVS for safety and park operations efficiency purposes. This would entail construction of 1,500 to 2,000 feet of road at town road standards. Total cost of the PEVS including utilities, roads, parking and town road relocation is estimated at $250,000.

11. Pleasure Valley Creek is the only permanent water feature on the site. Air quality on the site is good as it is in a rural location.

12. (Flora) - The forested area is in transition from intolerant species to more tolerant climax species.

(Fauna) - the year as well as a variety of reptiles. There are no threatened species found at the park with the exception of the migrating Cooper's Hawk, which is unlikely to nest on the site. The creek may at times contain some species of forage fish.


BLUE MOUND
STATE PARK
Madison
Madison
Janesville
Milwaukee
Chicago
Rockford
Beloit
25 mi.
50 mi.
75 mi.
100 mi.
miles
0
13
26
N

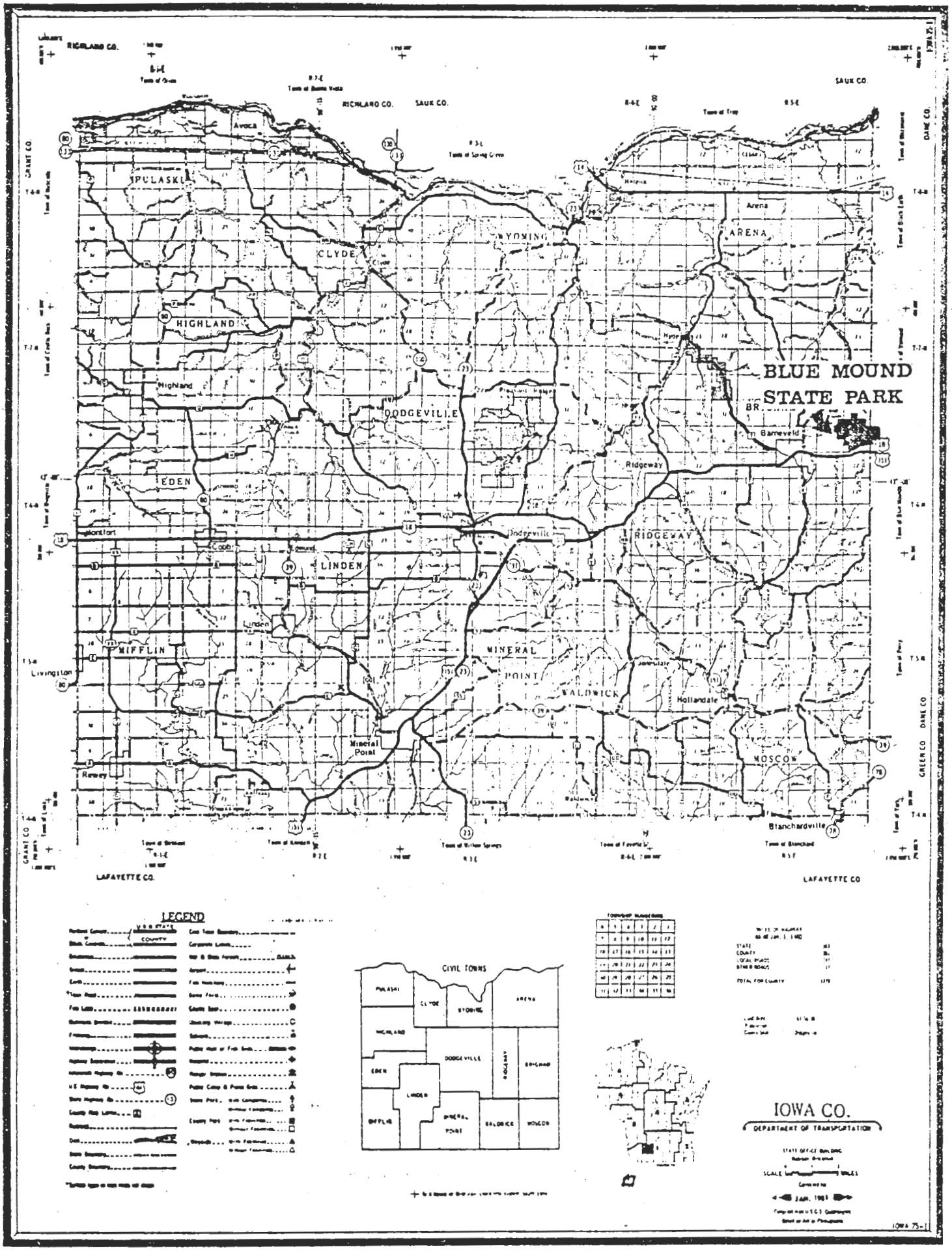
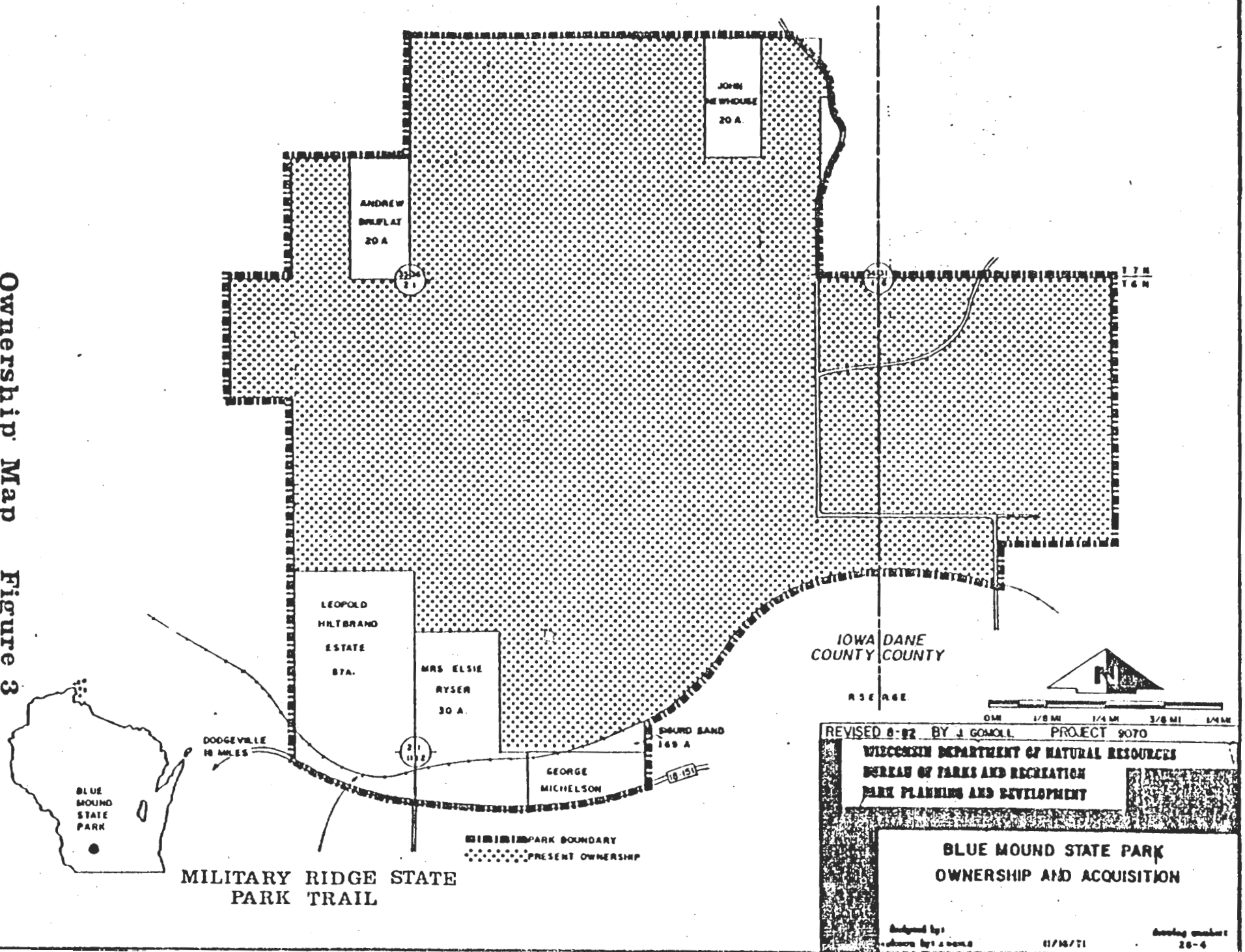
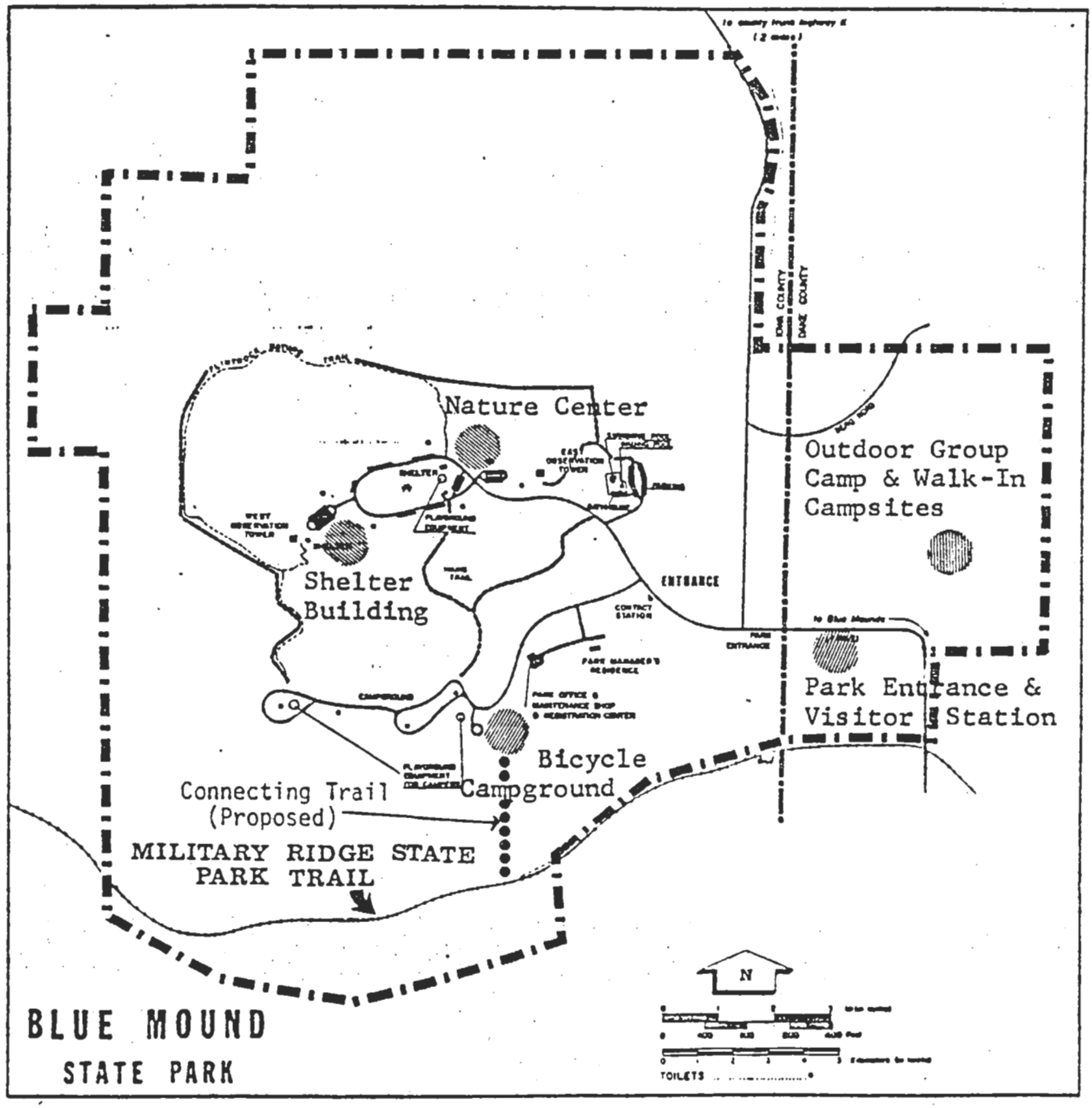

RICHLAND CO.
SAUK CO.
GRANT CO.
DANE CO.
GREEN CO
LAFAYETTE CO.
IPULASKI
CLYDE
WYOMING
ARENA
HIGHLAND
Highland
DODGEVILLE
BLUE MOUND
STATE PARK
Barneveld
Ridgeway
EDEN
LINDEN
Linden
MIFFLIN
Livingston
MINERAL
POINT
WALDWICK
Hollandale
Mineral Point
Rewey
MOSCOW
Blanchardville
CIVIL TOWNS
IOWA CO.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LEGEND

Figure 2

Ownership Map Figure 3

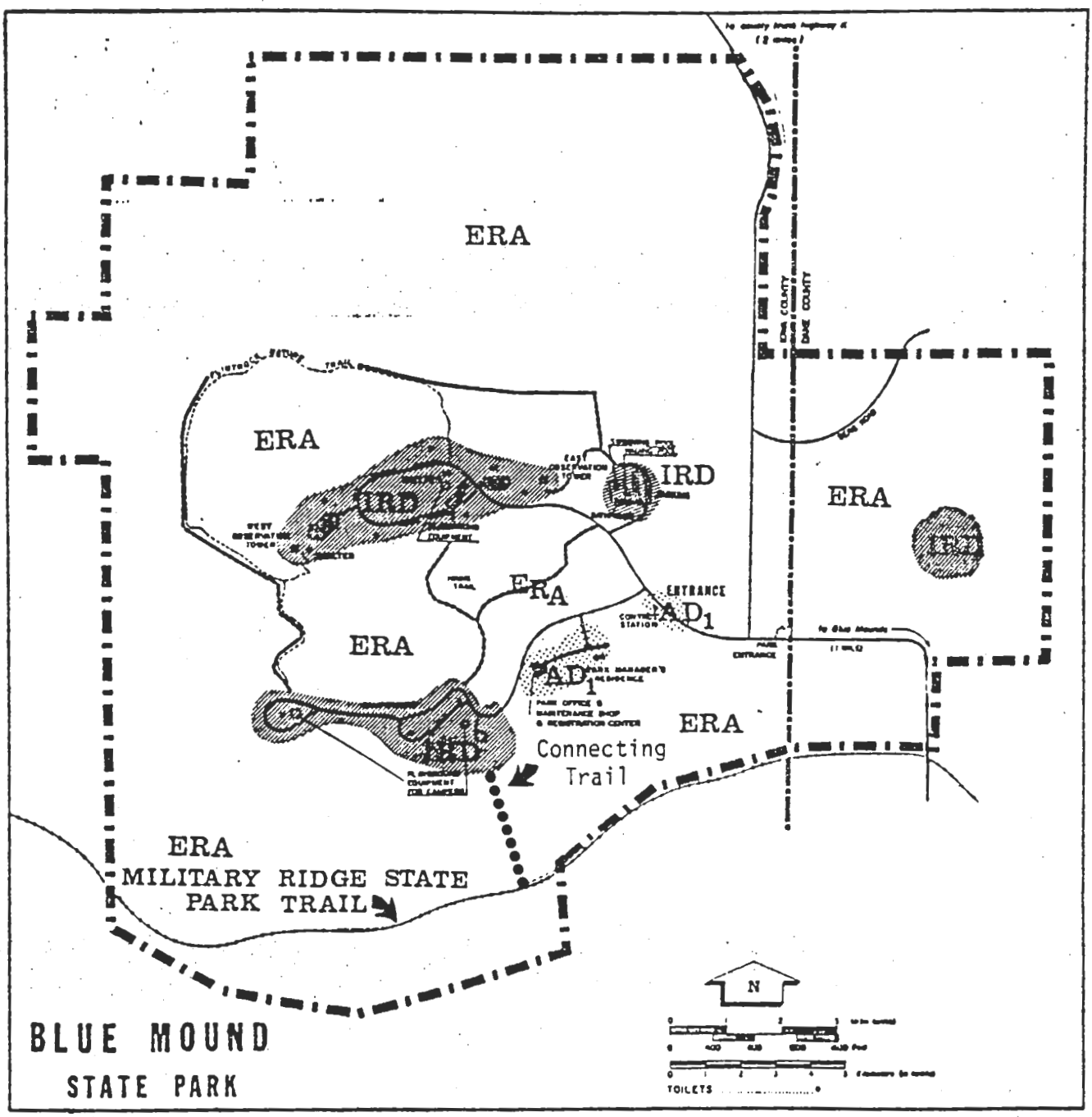


MILITARY RIDGE STATE
PARK TRAIL



Proposed Development

Development Map – Existing & Proposed Figure 4

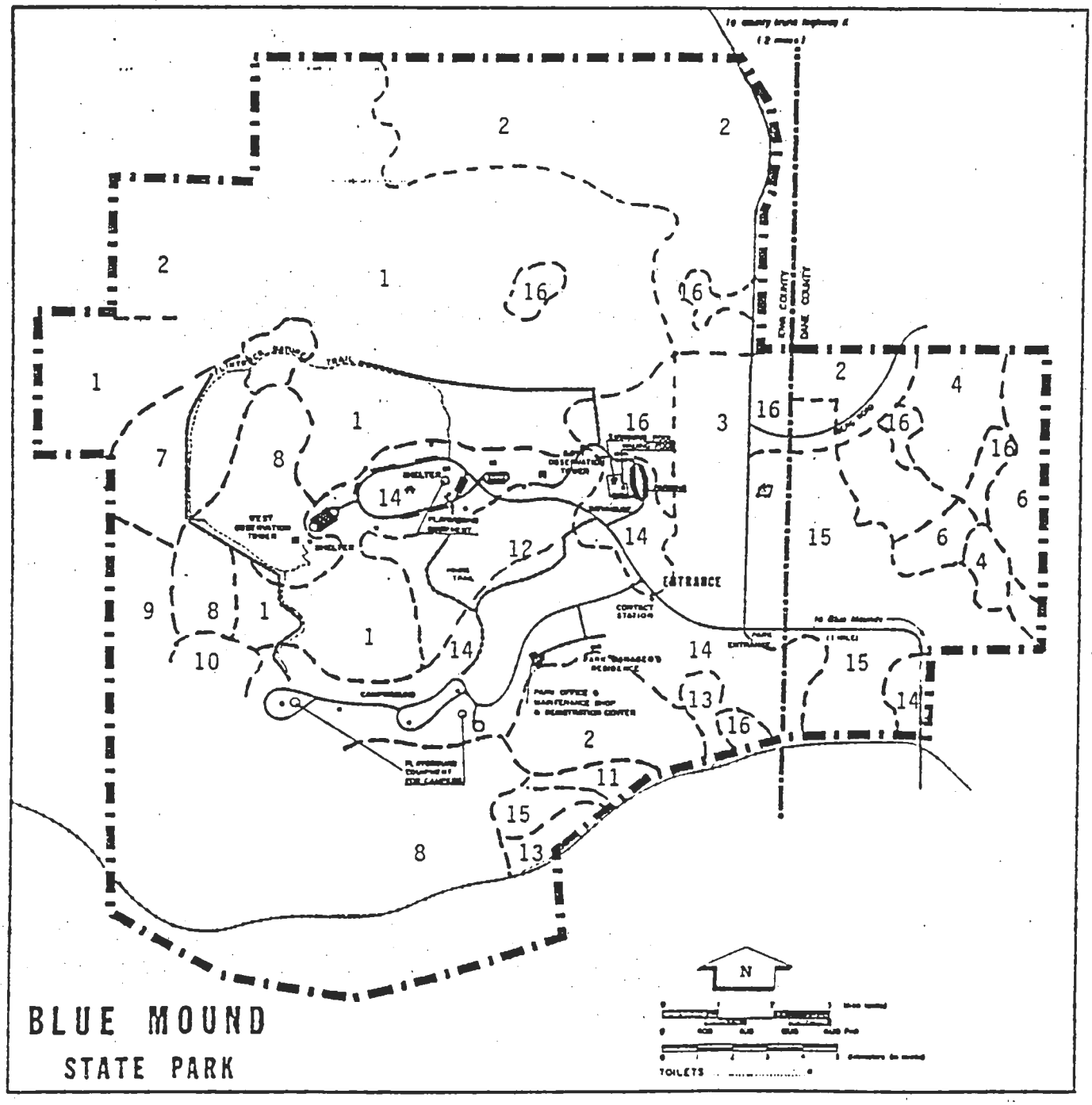


IRD — Intensive Recreation Development (117 Acres)

AD_1 — Administrative (5 Acres)

ERA — Extensive Recreation Area (1,001 Acres)

Land Use Classification Map **Figure 5**



Vegetative Type Map Figure 6

Vegetative Type Legend

Stand No.	Timber Type	Acres (Approx.)
1	015+" / (NH)CHO-5"	330
2	011-15' / 05-11"	185
3	NH11-15" / NH5-11"	45
4	NR11-15" / NH5-11"	33
5	(O)NH15+" / NHO-5'''	19
6	NH11-15' / NH5-11'''	45
7	CH11-15" / CH5-11'	30
8	011-15" / CH5-11'	70
9	CH5-11" / CHO-5"	18
10	NHO-5' / Ub	13
11	CHO-5'''	9
12	015+' / 05-11'	49
13	(P)PW5-9'''	7
14	I	122
15	Gg	95
16	Ub / Gg	53
		1,123 acres

Refer to MC 8625.2 for a detailed explanation of the above symbols.