

Form 1100-1
Rev. 11-82

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. _____

SUBJECT: MASTER PLANNING - Approval of master plan for Governor Dodge State Park, Iowa County, with an acreage goal of 5,276 acres.

FOR November BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Jim Treichel - P&R/4

SUMMARY: The concept master plan for Governor Dodge State Park is presented for review and approval.

Governor Dodge State Park is located in Iowa County about three miles north of the City of Dodgeville. Picnicking, swimming, camping, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling are recreational activities offered. Current state ownership for the park is 5,029 acres.

Development proposed in the master plan includes construction of a 100-unit family campground, horseman's campground, biker's campground for users of the Military Ridge Trail and six walk-in campsites. Other construction items (See attached)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the master plan for Governor Dodge State Park with an acreage goal of 5,276 acres.

LIST OF ATTACHED REFERENCE MATERIAL:

No X Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes Attached
No Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes X Attached
No Background Memo	Yes X Attached

APPROVED:

D. L. Weizenicker 10/22/84
Bureau Director, D. L. Weizenicker Date

J. R. Huntoon 10/26/84
Administrator, J. R. Huntoon Date

C. D. Besadny 10-30-84
Secretary, C. D. Besadny - ADM/5 Date

- cc: J. Scullion - ADM/5
 D. Karr - ADM/5
 C. Germain - ER/4
 D. Weizenicker - P&R/4
 L. Nehls - P&R/4
 D. Morrissette - Nevin

- J. Huntoon - ADM/5
 R. Lindberg - FOR/4
 C. Evert - OL/4
 J. Treichel - P&R/4
 E. Faber - RE/4

SUMMARY Continued

include concession facilities to be provided by a local service club, nature center, shower building, picnic shelter, replacement pit toilets and a cold storage building. New trail construction, paving of the group campground roads, resurfacing various parking lots and roads, adding electrical hookups for campers, prairie establishment, and landscaping are other development proposals.

Total development cost in 1984 dollars is estimated at \$1,800,000. The proposed development is dependent upon available funds and statewide priorities.

The park boundary will be modified to include a parcel of private land needed for a trail connector to the Military Ridge Trail and another small parcel needed to prevent undesirable development from occurring across from the park entrance. Therefore, the acreage goal needs to be increased from 5,268 to 5,276 acres to include the additional eight acres of private land within the park boundary.

CORRESPONDENCE / MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DATE: October 12, 1984

In Reply Refer To: 2510

TO: C. D. Besadny - ADM/5

FROM: David L. Weizenicker 

SUBJECT: Governor Dodge State Park Master Plan

As stated in the master plan for Governor Dodge State Park, the goal is to provide a state park that will serve the recreational, educational, archaeological, and nature experience needs of and provide a scenic resource for 650,000 park visitors annually while preserving and protecting the resource for future generations.

Development proposals in the master plan include construction of a 100-unit family campground, horseman's campground, biker's campground principally for users of the Military Ridge Trail, and six walk-in campsites. Other proposals include construction of concession facilities to be provided by a local service club, a nature center, a shower building to serve both the group campground and horseman's campground, a picnic shelter in the Twin Valley picnic area, several replacement pit toilets and a cold storage service building. Additional items include new trail construction, paving of the group campground roads, resurfacing various parking lots and roads, adding electrical hookups for campers, prairie establishment, and landscaping.

Total development cost in 1984 dollars is estimated at \$1,800,000. The proposed development is dependent upon available funds and statewide priorities.

Current state ownership at the park is 5,029 acres. It is proposed that the acquisition boundary be expanded to include two parcels of private land totaling eight acres. A 1 1/2-acre parcel is needed for a trail connector to the Military Ridge State Trail. The other 6 1/2-acre parcel is needed to protect the park entrance off State Highway 23 from the potential of undesirable developments. The acreage goal will be adjusted from 5,268 to 5,276 acres.

The master plan was presented at a public informational meeting on July 24, 1984, at the Dodgeville Elementary School in Dodgeville. The 12 citizens attending the meeting indicated general approval of the plan. Representatives of horseman's groups were very supportive of the plan. The Department will seek their advice when completing a site plan for the horseman's campground. Several adjoining landowners were concerned about the high deer population in the park. One adjoining landowner requested that the proposed shower building be located out of view from their residence.

The Governor Dodge Master Plan was sent to the Scientific Areas Preservation Council (SAPC) and Wild Resources Advisory Council (WRAC). As a result of the SAPC's question on certain areas classified as Public Use Natural Area, the proposed prairie and sites to be maintained as open areas and food patches were changed to an Extensive Recreation Area classification. In response to the Council's recommendation that tree cutting be limited in the park, the timber stand improvement proposal was dropped and an additional area was designated as a "no vegetative management" zone. Some timber management or tree cutting will take place in areas outside this zone where the shelterwood and clearcut methods of management are recommended.

WRAC was of the opinion that Governor Dodge contains no wild resources potential except for those identified for scientific area purposes.

An approved environmental assessment for the Governor Dodge Master Plan is on file.

It is recommended that the Board approve the master plan for Governor Dodge State Park.

DJK:mf/2711M

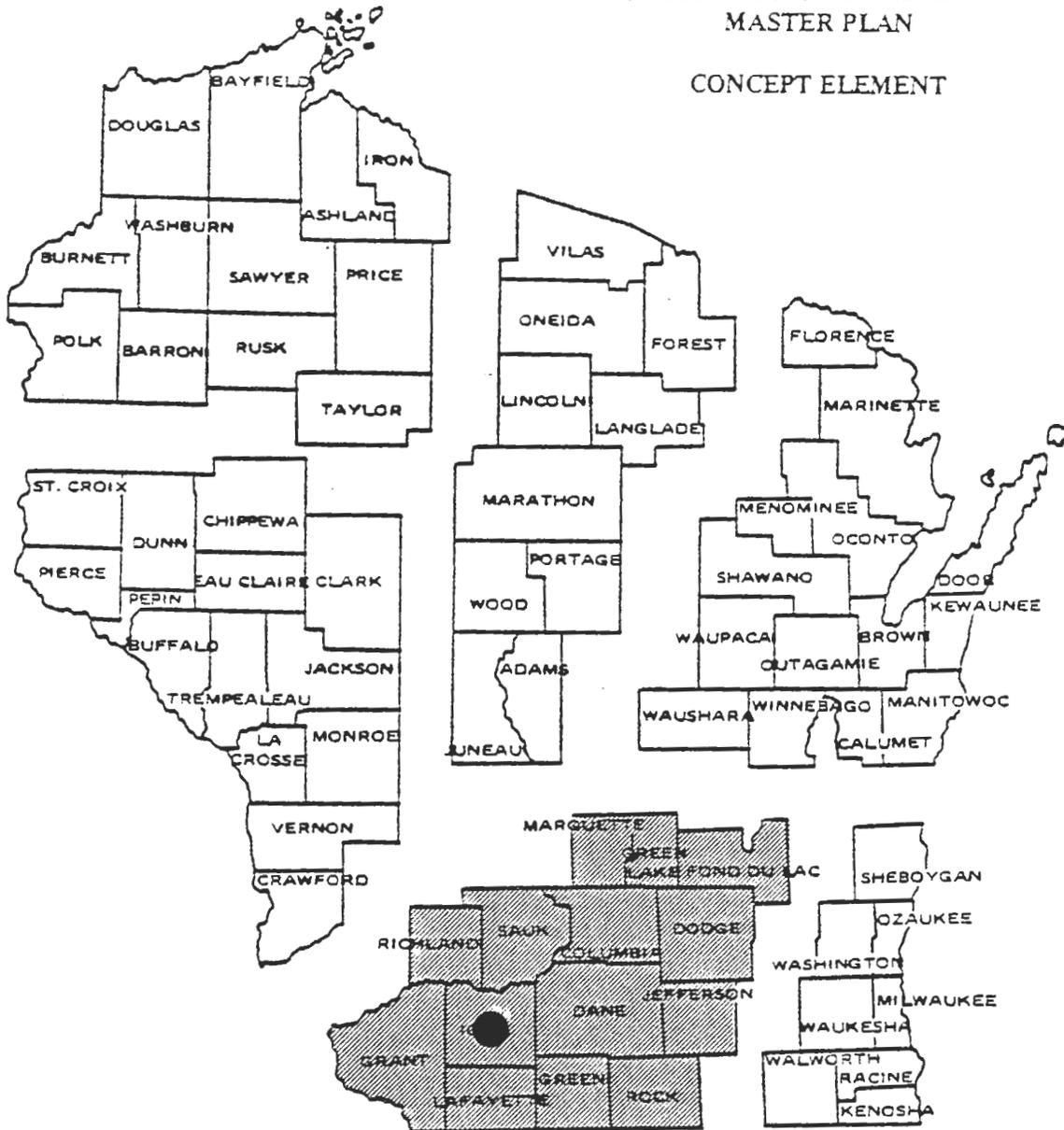
Attach.

cc: J. Scullion - ADM/5
C. Karr - ADM/5
C. Germain - ER/4
D. Weizenicker - P&R/4
L. Nehls - P&R/4
D. Morrisette - Nevin

J. Huntoon - ADM/5
R. Lindberg - FOR/4
C. Evert - OL/4
J. Treichel - P&R/4
E. Faber - RE/4

GOVERNOR DODGE STATE PARK
 MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Approved By: _____

- Leader: David Aslakson - Park Planner
 Blair Anderson - Fire Control
 Tom Hauge - Wildlife Management
 Rich Purin - Park Superintendent
 Gene Van Dyck - Fish Management
 Jim Widder - Forest Management
 Leroy Wiesner - Conservation Warden

Date: _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SECTION I - ACTIONS	
A. GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.	1
B. RECOMMENDED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.	2
C. MAPS	
1. Regional Location	
2. County Location	
3. Ownership	
4. Development	
5. Land Use Classification	
6. Vegetation Types	
7. Vegetative Cover	
8. Scientific Area	

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION.	7
B. RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY	9
C. MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS	15
D. RECREATION NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATIONS	16
E. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES.	18

APPENDIX

- A. SPECIES LIST
- B. DEER HARVEST RECORD 1972-1981
- C. ROCKSHELTER SITE EXCAVATION REPORT

Governor Dodge State Park

SECTION I - ACTIONS

A. GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

GOAL

Provide a state park that will serve the recreational, educational, archaeological, and nature experience needs of 650,000 park visitors annually while preserving and protecting the resource for future generations.

ANNUAL OBJECTIVES

1. Provide and maintain day-use recreational areas including picnic areas, two beaches, sunning areas, and play fields for 600,000 visitors.
2. Provide a quality recreational experience for 205,000 campers by maintaining a family, outdoor group, backpack, horseback and bicycle camping facilities.
3. Provide trail facilities for 150,000 nature, hiking, bicycling, snowmobile, cross-country skiing, and horseback users.
4. Provide educational programs for 75,000 visitors.
5. Provide for 36,000 angler-days of fishing.
6. Provide for 10,000 participant-days of boating.
7. Provide opportunities for 350 participant days of deer hunting recreation (to maintain deer herd balance and avoid damage to vegetation).
8. Accommodate individuals who are handicapped through the proper design, construction, and management of the property and its facilities.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

1. Provide for other recreational and educational uses, including bird watching, wildlife observation, gathering of nuts, berries, and mushrooms, photography, and cultural events such as the Heritage Ensemble.
2. Provide recreational facilities for Military Ridge State Trail users including bicycle camping.
3. Benefit game and nongame 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, including planting of native species and harvesting forest products in the best interest of the park.
5. Emphasize the park's unique features, including the park's scientific area, rock outcrops, waterfalls, open areas, woodlands, and water bodies.

B. RECOMMENDED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The recommended development and management program follows the "moderate improvement over existing use and development" alternative selected as the most suitable for the park. Under this alternative, the following improvements, when completed, would accommodate 63% more park users per year. The management problems as addressed in the master plan would be studied and solved. The acquisition of 8 acres of land would contribute to protecting the visual and aesthetic integrity of the park and provide a connector to the Military Ridge Trail.

1. Development (Figure 4)

- a. Construct a 100-unit family camp loop adjacent to Twin Valley campground. Support facilities would include blacktop road and parking, shower building, flush and pit toilets, septic disposal, drinking water, tables, grills, signing, trash receptacles, landscaping, and 80 electrical sites.
- b. Construct a 20-unit 80-camper capacity horseback riders' campground and day-use parking area. Governor Dodge possesses 20 miles of horse trails, and there are no state horse campgrounds south of Wildcat Mountain and west of the Kettle Moraines. Support facilities would include a pit toilet, handpump well, blacktop road, parking for 20 vehicles and campers, picnic tables, signing, fire rings, trash receptacles, and landscaping.
- c. Construct a bicycle campground containing 25 units and a group camping area. 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 near Cox Hollow Lake or approximately 2 miles from the Military Ridge. Support facilities would include a connecting bicycle trail surfaced with limestone screenings, a loop campground trail, toilets, drinking water, a shower facility, picnic tables, fire rings, trash receptacles, signing and landscaping.
- d. Develop 6 primitive walk-in campsites. The sites would be located near the outdoor group camp along a mowed trail. Design would be flexible so that the trail and sites could be moved periodically. This would allow for the opportunity to rest areas within the scope of the design. Support facilities would include 2 portable single-unit pit toilets, a trail head parking

lot, picnic tables, fire rings, signing, and landscaping. Drinking water is available near the proposed parking lot at the group camp.

- e. Landscaping of existing sites. This action would include the planting of trees and shrubs in existing campgrounds and picnic areas as well as providing buffer plantings and the establishments of 370 acres of prairie.
- f. Replace the existing concession building at the Cox Hollow picnic area. Construct a concession building at the Twin Valley Picnic Area. These concession facilities are to be provided by a local service club.
- g. Construct a nature center on the plateau north of Cox Hollow Lake. Included would be display area, lecture room, naturalist office and lab, restrooms, and outdoor demonstration space.
- h. Bury overhead utility lines at the park entrance visitors station area and at Cox Hollow Beach.
- i. Enlarge and remodel park office building to facilitate additional public contact and employe space needs due to projected increased park attendance.
- j. Replace one set of deteriorated pit toilets each (2 sets total) at the Cox Hollow Beach picnic area and Cox Hollow Campground.
- k. Pave with blacktop the 2.5 miles of outdoor group camp roads and accompanying parking lots.
- l. Construct a shower building to be shared by outdoor group camp and horseback riders' campground.
- m. Remove Box Canyon toilets that have deteriorated and replace with one set of pit toilets at Enee Point picnic area, and provide electricity for the shelter building and toilets.
- n. Blacktop a gravel 80-car parking lot at the Twin Valley Lake picnic area.
- o. Develop a 2,000-foot handicapped nature-hiking trail.
- p. Facilitate handicapped access at the amphitheatre, Cox Hollow Beach, the boat launches, the group camp, and upgrade facilities in the family campgrounds.
- q. Resurface 2.3 miles of two-lane blacktop road between the PEVS and Cox Hollow Beach and at the Twin Valley entrance road; and 1.9 miles of one-way blacktop road at Twin Valley and Cox Hollow campgrounds.

- r. Add electrical hookup to 35 sites and upgrade 15 electrical sites at Twin Valley Campground.
- s. Build an open picnic shelter at Twin Valley picnic area.
- t. Relocate existing horse-snowmobile and cross-country ski trails. Construct three miles of new trails to accommodate horse-snowmobile and cross-country ski trail relocation. These changes are necessary to accommodate snowmobile traffic from the Military Ridge Trail.
- u. Construct 40' x 120' cold storage building at shop-storage area.

Total development costs are estimated at \$1,800,000. All proposed development will be dependent upon available funds and statewide priorities. Additional and/or up-to-date justification will also be required.

2. Management

a. Vegetative (Figure 7)

The recommended vegetative management will maintain diversity cover and cover types within the park. Presettlement conditions of Governor Dodge were probably oak savannah which provided a mixture of woodland and open space. As part of the management plan, a number of open spaces will be maintained and several prairie sites totaling 370 acres created. One large prairie site of several hundred acres will be created on the west-central part of the park. A large area where no vegetative management will take place except to promote intensive recreation, safety, and aesthetics has been designated. This includes the area classified as public use natural area and portions of the extensive recreation area. Three sharecrop and three food patch sites for wildlife enhancement will be maintained.

The predominant vegetative cover of oak will be succeeded by more shade-tolerant species on sites with better soils and on northern and eastern exposures. In some areas of the extensive recreation zone where stands of oak and aspen are to be maintained, vegetative management in the form of shelterwood cutting for the oaks and intensive or clearcut for the aspen may occur. There are also two sites in the park where box elder will be eradicated.

b. Wildlife

Where consistent with the overall objectives for the park, some measures will be taken to promote wildlife habitat such as sharecropping, and maintaining food patches and open spaces (Figure 7). The edges of the openings will be kept in brush.

Individual open spaces will not be kept in a uniform state of mowing or clearing. Diversity within each open space will be promoted. Selected aspen stands will be perpetuated by cutting.

Deer hunting by permit will continue to coincide with the regular November gun deer season. This action has been used to minimize browsing damage in the park and adjoining croplands and will continue as long as it is practical for game management reasons and does not present a hazard to other park users. Other forms of hunting and trapping are not authorized by Statute.

c. Fish and Water

Cox Hollow and Twin Valley Lakes

A continuing effort will be maintained to increase the average size of the property's panfish through a stable foodchain including a stable gamefish population. Existing stocking guidelines call for stocking of walleye in both lakes and musky in Twin Valley Lake every other year. A study will be conducted to assess the effect of the introduction of walleye on the panfish population. The largemouth bass population will be maintained on a self-sustaining basis. No management plans are projected for the remaining fishery. No plans for drawdowns or chemical treatment of the lakes are anticipated.

Halverson Lake

No management of the self-sustaining fishery of Halverson Lake is being considered until assessments of increased user pressure have been completed.

Streams

Beaver infestation at Governor Dodge will be carefully monitored and controlled to prevent damage to the landscape and the fishery of the park's three permanent streams. Though a limited trout fishery potential exists at the park, an experimental brook trout stocking program will be conducted on the south fork feeder stream to Cox Hollow Lake. This program would contain a 0 bag limit fishing regulation on the property. Mill Creek will continue to be managed as a trout stream.

d. Facility

Governor Dodge State Park will continue to be operated as a sub-unit of the Governor Dodge work unit. Additional staff needed to operate the property beyond the existing 8 permanent, one seasonal, and 20-25 limited term employees (LTE) would include one permanent naturalist, two seasonal patrol officers, one seasonal facilities repair officer, and five LTE's (one patrol officer, two clerical, and two maintenance).

3. Land Acquisition (Figure 3)

As of June 30, 1984, 5,029.42 acres were state-owned at Governor Dodge. It is proposed that the acquisition boundary be expanded to include two parcels of private land totaling eight acres. A 1.5-acre parcel is needed for a trail connector to the Military Ridge State Trail. The other 6.5-acre parcel is needed to eliminate the possibility of undesirable development across from the entrance to the park. Acquisition of this parcel will be coordinated with the Department of Transportation. This coordination will be instrumental in addressing the prevention of undesirable development from occurring opposite the park entrance and potential State Trunk Highway 23 improvements.

The recommended acreage goal will be 5,276 acres.

4. Operations Cost and Revenue Potential

Total 1983-84 operations cost for Governor Dodge was \$282,296. With total revenue for 1984 estimated at \$330,800, the percent of revenue to operations cost is about 117 percent.

Revenue generated by the proposed 100-unit family campground addition could increase the revenue to operations percentage to about 138 percent if occupancy is the same as the current rate.

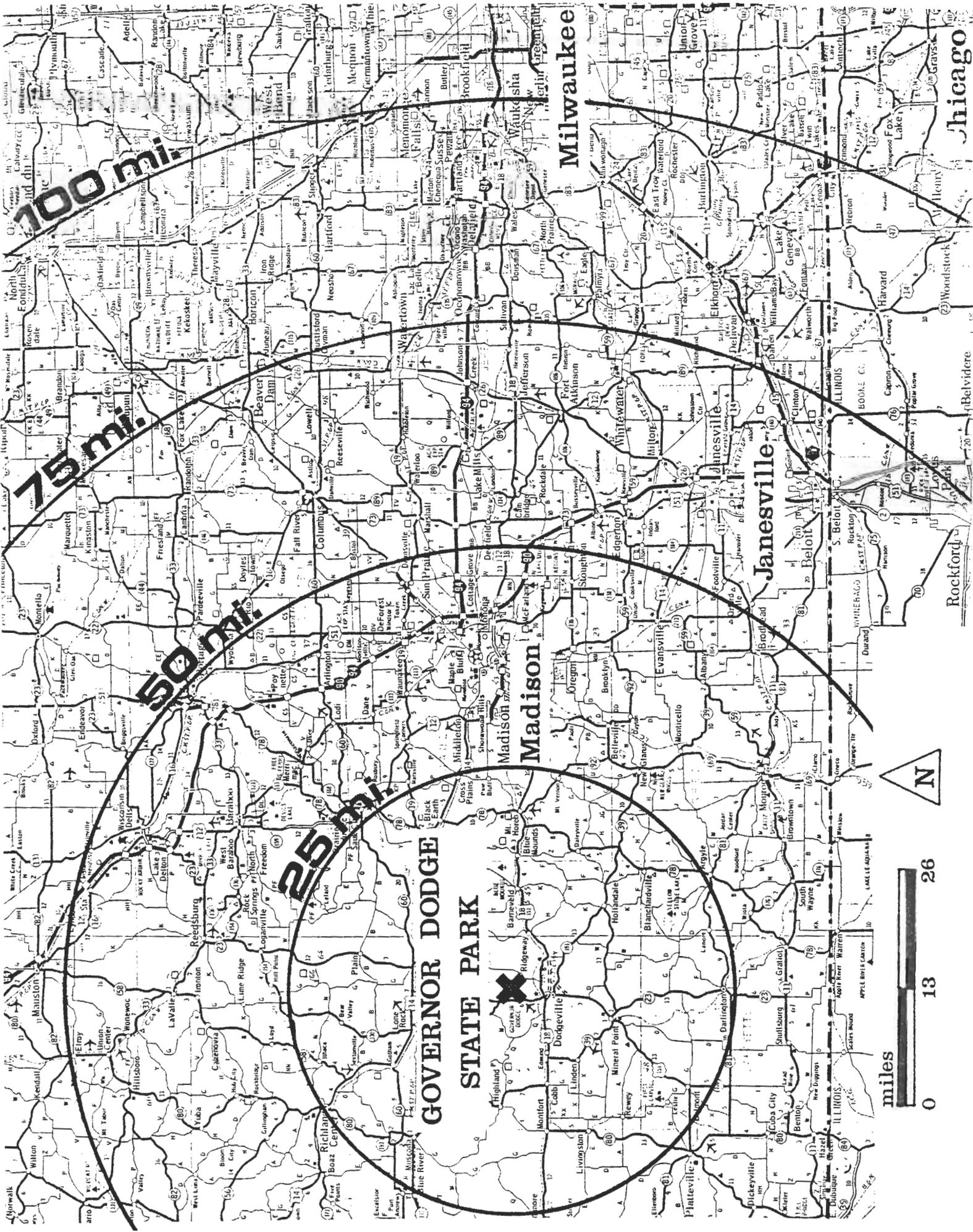
5. Roads, Entrances, and Private In-holdings

Governor Dodge is a one-entrance park with a park entrance/visitor station. This facility provides service to the visiting public in the form of efficient collection of the vehicle admission sticker fees, enforcement of the sticker regulation, registration of campers, and dispensing of helpful park information to the visitor.

There are no private inholdings or public highways within the park boundaries which affect the Department's ability to operate the property.

6. Public Involvement In The Master Planning Process

The Governor Dodge master plan was sent to nine individuals and the Dodgeville public library during the 45-day review period. The master plan was also presented at a public informational meeting on July 24, 1984, at the Dodgeville Elementary School in Dodgeville. Twelve citizens attended the meeting consisting of representatives of horseback riding groups and land owners adjoining the park. The two-week public review of the environmental assessment on the master plan was another form of public involvement.



100 mi.

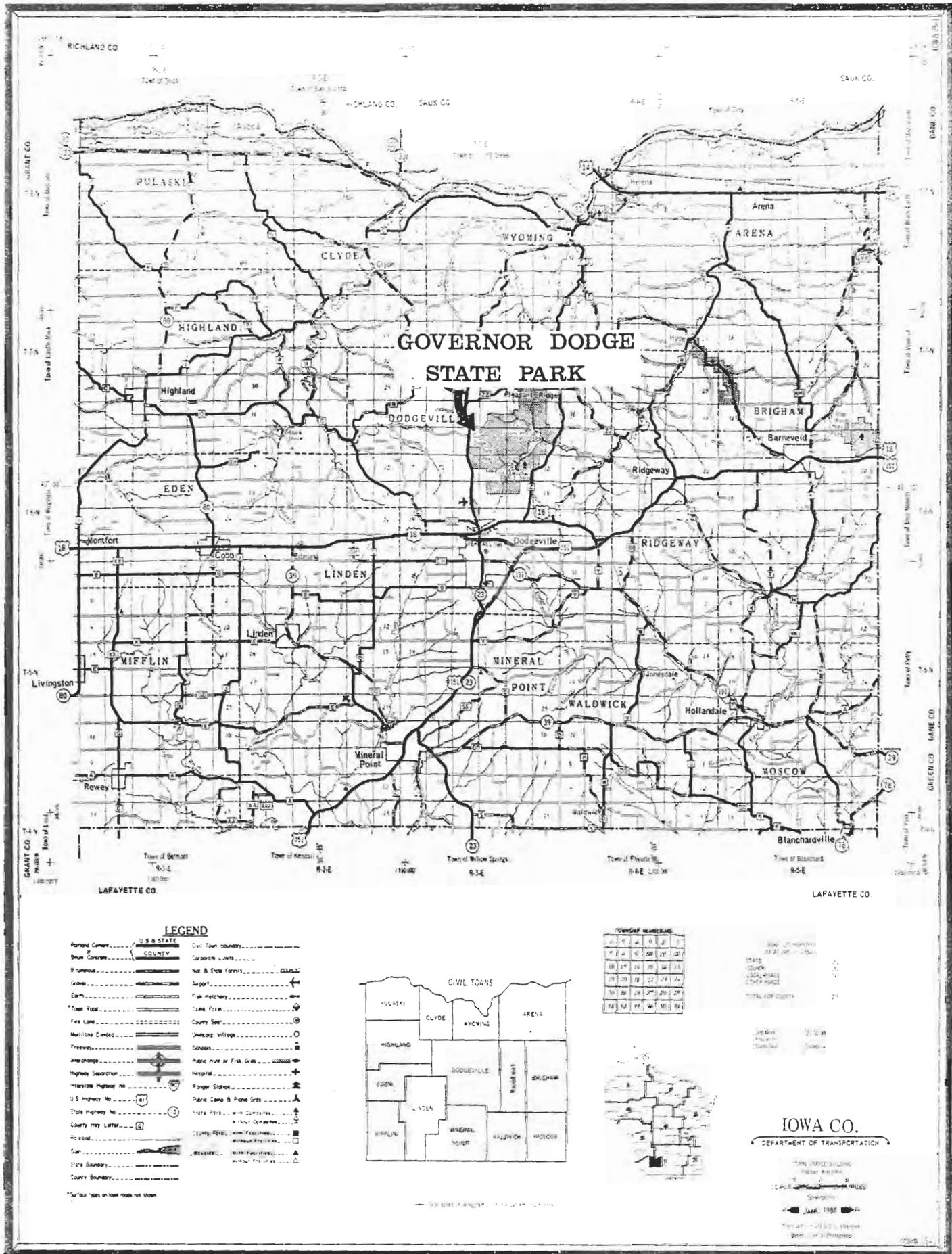
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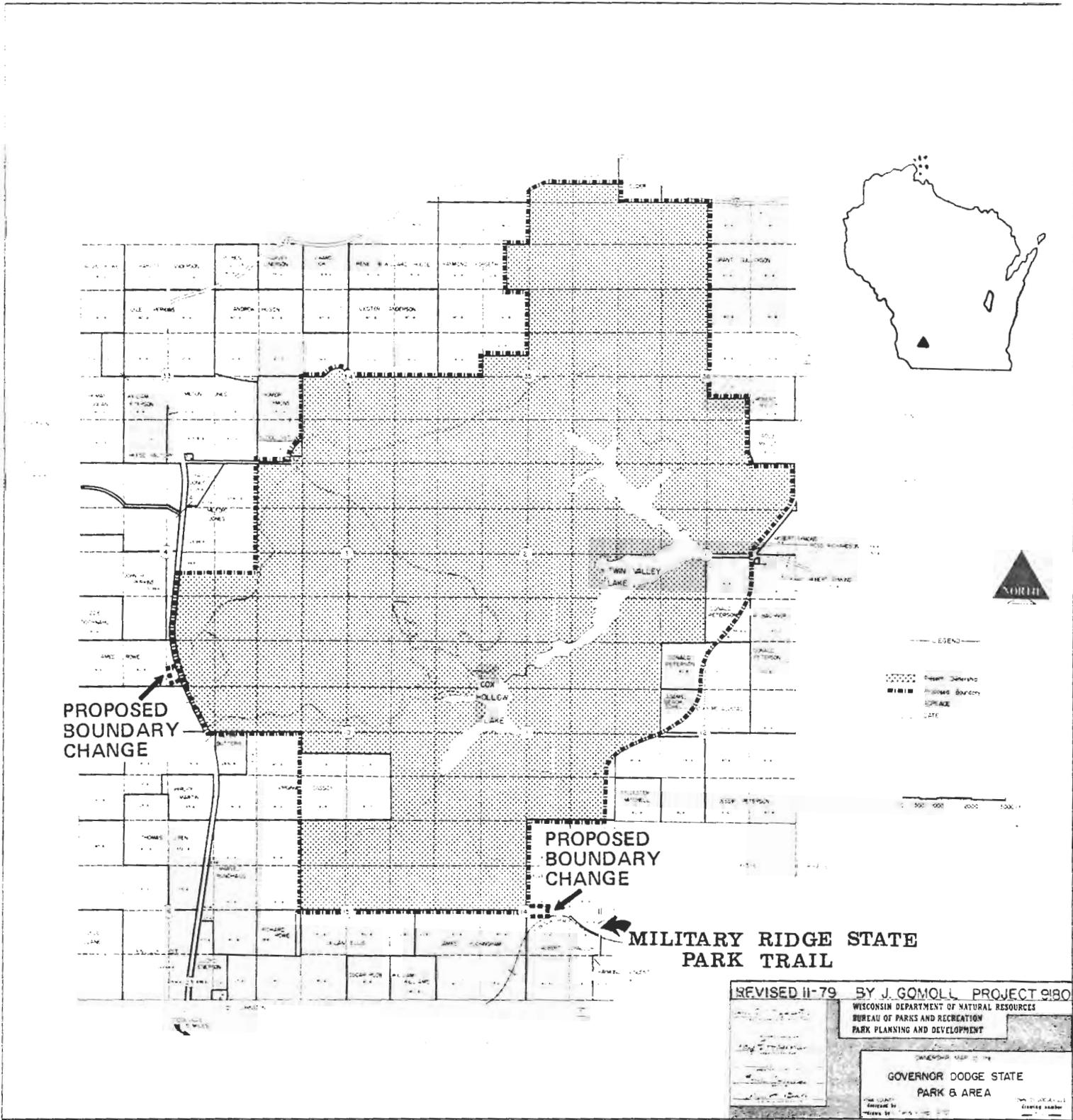
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GOVERNOR DODGE
STATE PARK

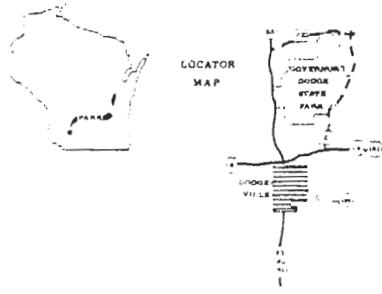
STATE LOCATOR MAP FIGURE 1



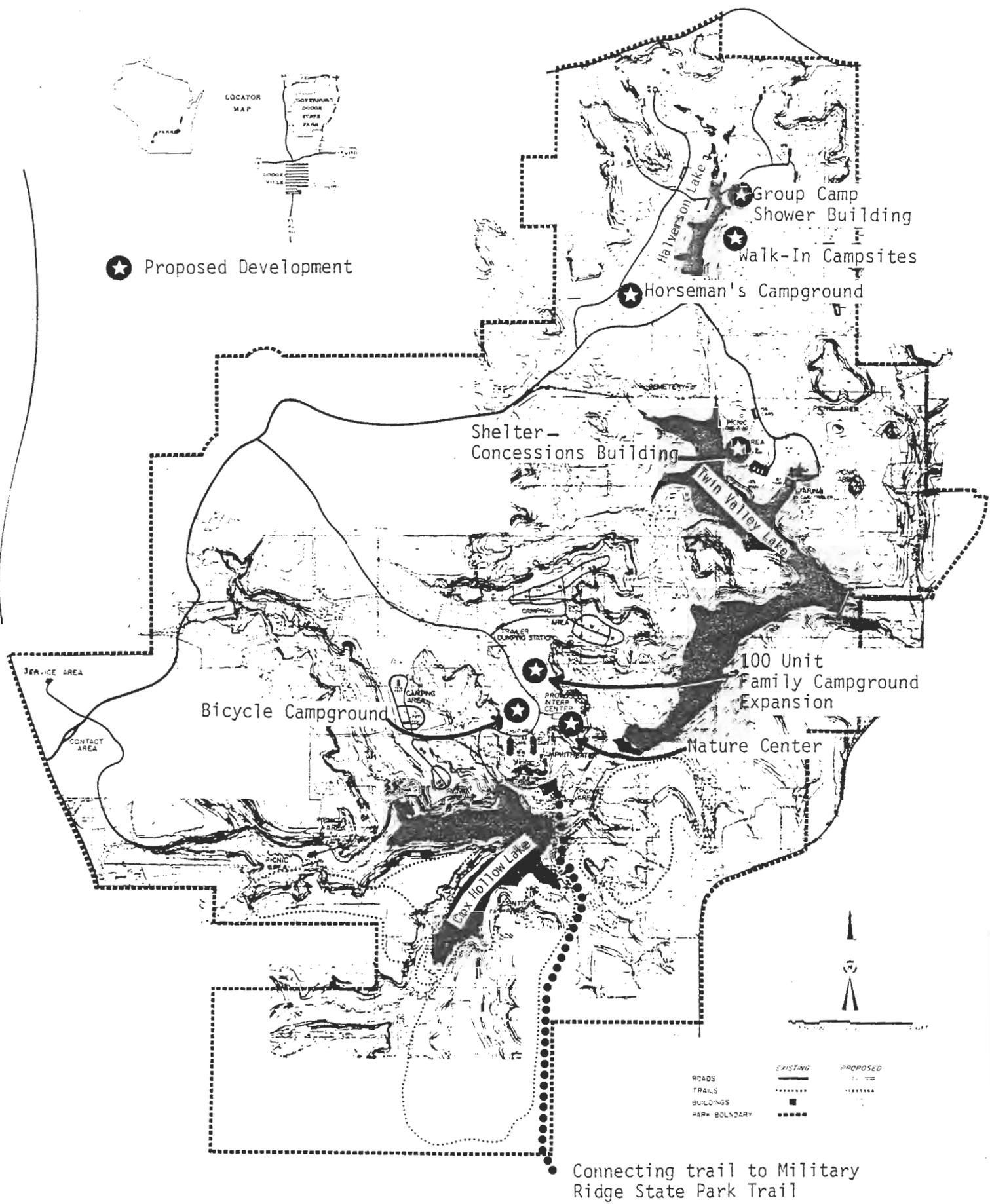
COUNTY LOCATOR MAP FIGURE 2



OWNERSHIP MAP FIGURE 3



★ Proposed Development



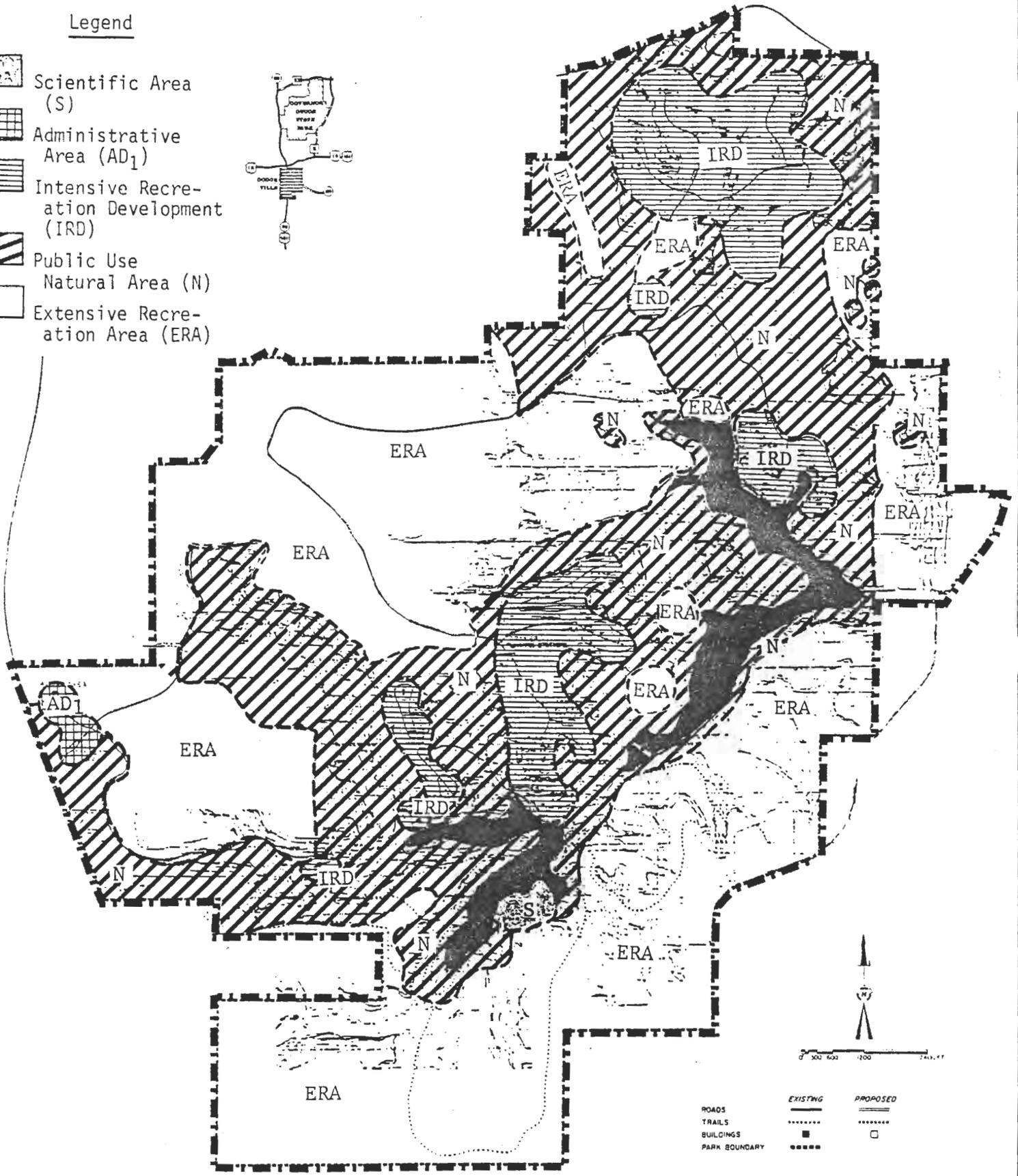
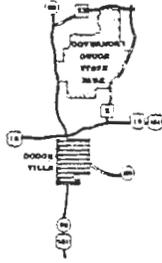
ROADS	EXISTING	PROPOSED
TRAILS	—	---
BUILDINGS	■	★
PARK BOUNDARY	---	---

Connecting trail to Military Ridge State Park Trail

DEVELOPMENT MAP—PRESENT AND PROPOSED **FIGURE 4**

Legend

-  Scientific Area (S)
-  Administrative Area (AD₁)
-  Intensive Recreation Development (IRD)
-  Public Use Natural Area (N)
-  Extensive Recreation Area (ERA)



- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | EXISTING | PROPOSED |
| ROADS | | |
| TRAILS | | |
| BUILDINGS | | |
| PARK BOUNDARY | | |

LAND USE CLASSIFICATION MAP FIGURE 5

DRAWN BY: *[Signature]*

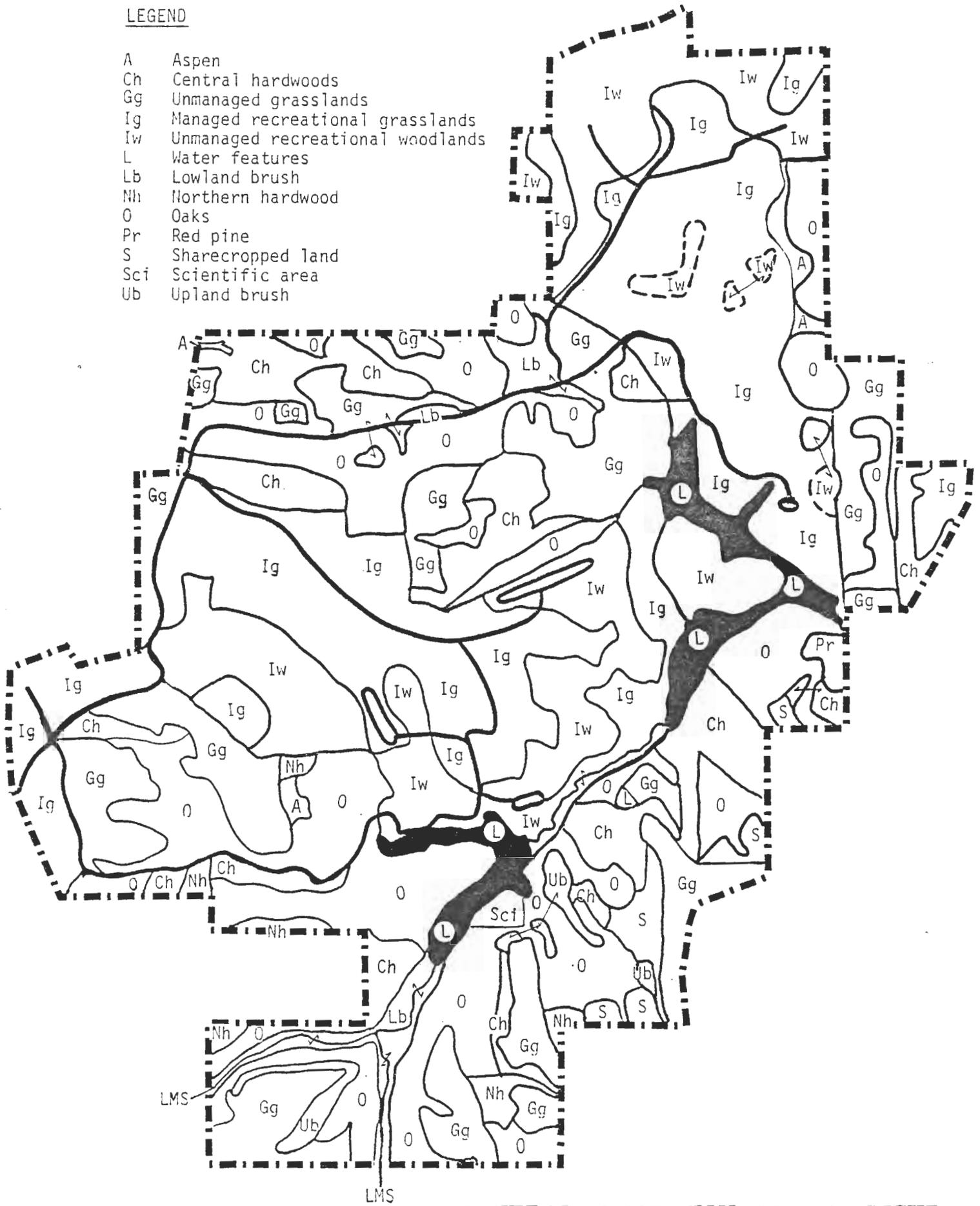
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT PLAN
GOVERNOR DODGE
STATE PARK

Revised May, 1964
Scale: 1" = 1/2 MI.
7-62

LEGEND

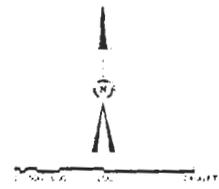
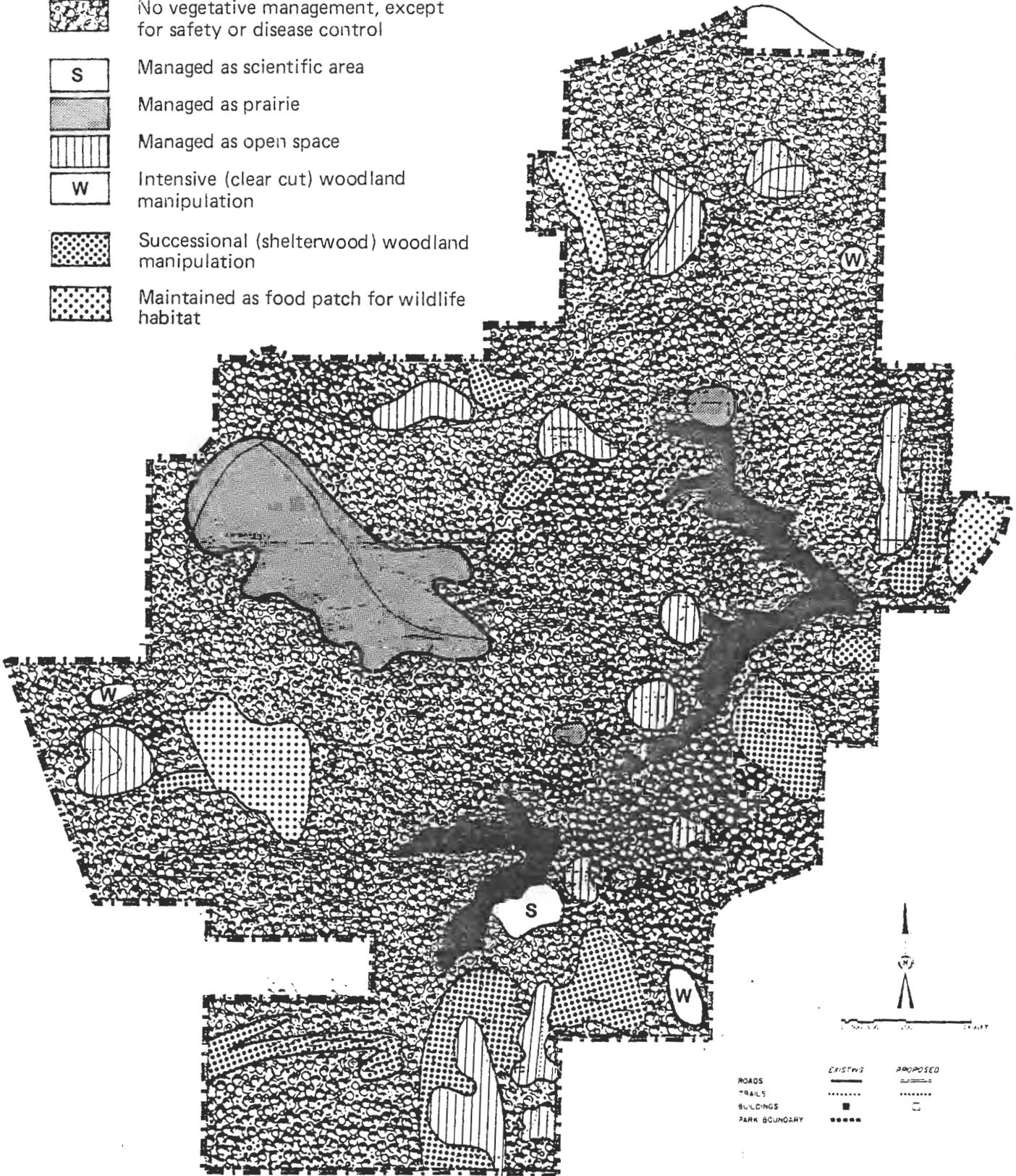
- A Aspen
- Ch Central hardwoods
- Gg Unmanaged grasslands
- Ig Managed recreational grasslands
- Iw Unmanaged recreational woodlands
- L Water features
- Lb Lowland brush
- Nh Northern hardwood
- O Oaks
- Pr Red pine
- S Sharecropped land
- Sci Scientific area
- Ub Upland brush



GENERAL VEGETATION TYPES FIGURE 6

LEGEND

-  No vegetative management, except for safety or disease control
-  Managed as scientific area
-  Managed as prairie
-  Managed as open space
-  Intensive (clear cut) woodland manipulation
-  Successional (shelterwood) woodland manipulation
-  Maintained as food patch for wildlife habitat



	<i>EXISTING</i>	<i>PROPOSED</i>
ROADS		
TRAILS		
BUILDINGS		
PARK BOUNDARY		

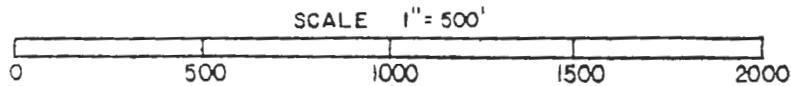
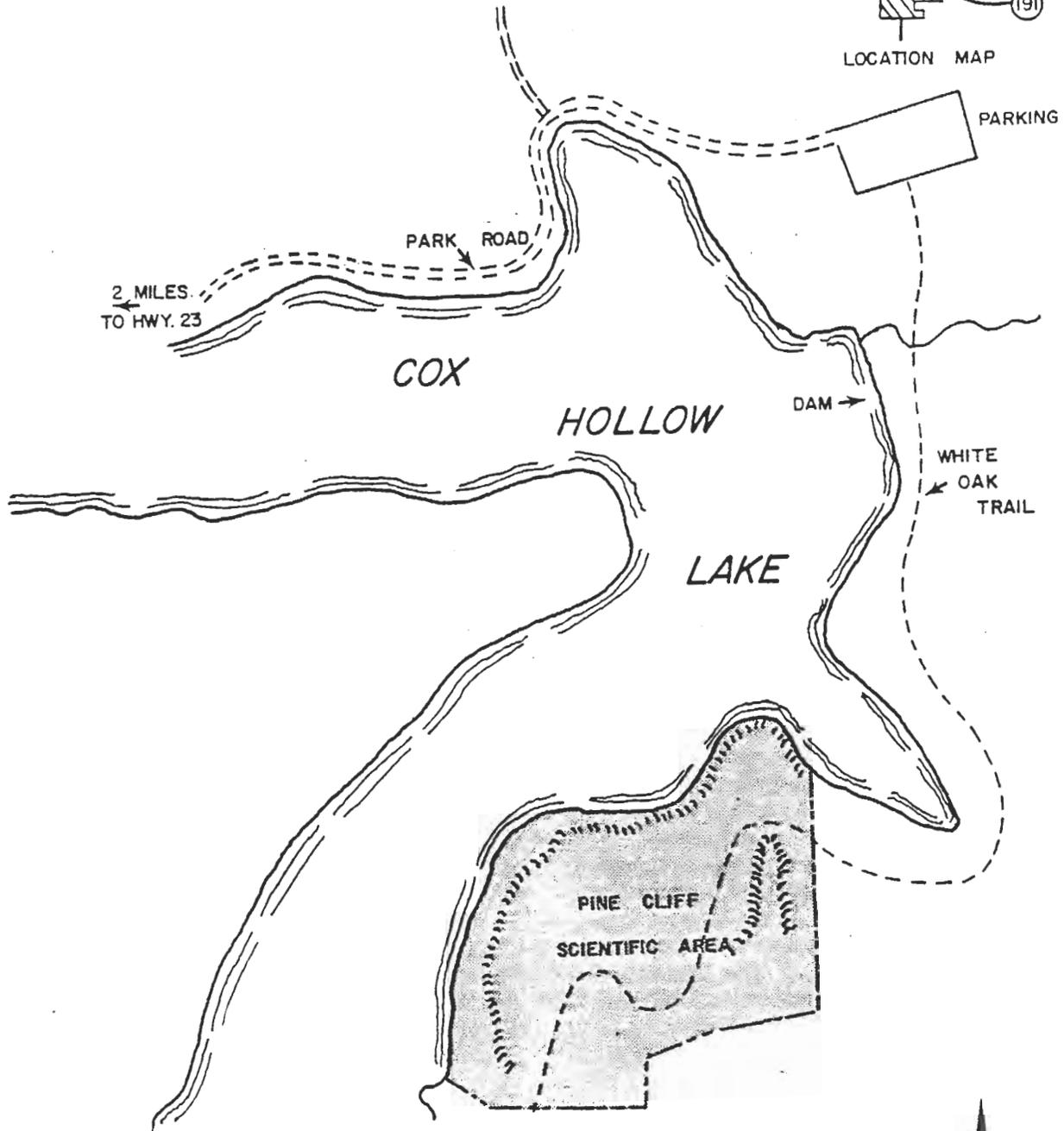
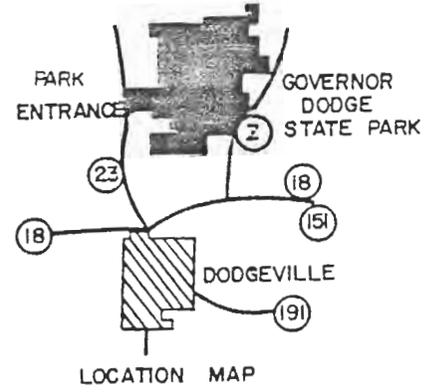
POTENTIAL VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT MAP FIGURE 7

Scale 1:50,000

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT PLAN
GOVERNOR DODGE STATE PARK

PINE CLIFF SCIENTIFIC AREA



SCIENTIFIC AREA FIGURE 8

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Location (Figures 1 and 2)

The 5,029-acre Governor Dodge State Park is located in Iowa County, Town of Dodgeville. The west boundary is formed by State Highway 23 and private property; the east boundary by County Highway Z and private property; and the south boundary by private property.

a. Relationship to highways. Main access to the park is via north-south State Highway 23, which runs along the west boundary. The park is located about 3-1/2 miles north of U.S. Highways 18 and 151, and 15 miles south of U.S. 14, all of which are east-west roads.

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

Dodgeville - 4 miles
Platteville - 30 miles
Madison - 48 miles
Dubuque - 52 miles
Milwaukee - 123 miles
Chicago - 182 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

Governor Dodge State Park is named after Henry L. Dodge, a pioneer resident of this area and the first governor of the Wisconsin territory. Over 7,000 years ago, Indians inhabited the park. As they hunted the area for food, they used the natural shelters of the bluffs for camps. Marquette and Joliet probably passed near the park in the late 1600's on their way to the Mississippi River.

By 1820, the area was the population center of Wisconsin, largely as a result of the booming lead mining operations centered in southwestern Wisconsin. Much of the land that Governor Dodge now occupies was farmed from the mid-1800's until 1948, when the park was established.

3. Chronology of Property's Establishment and Development

1944 - The Iowa County Conservation committee took the first steps toward park establishment by choosing the Cox Hollow area as a possible site for a lake.

- 1947 - Iowa County donated 160 acres to the state for park purposes.
- 1948 - The State Conservation Commission voted to establish the Cox Hollow area for state park purposes.
- 1954 - Development commenced and the property was officially named Governor Dodge State Park a year later.
- 1958 - Cox Hollow Lake created.
- 1961 - First campground opened.
- 1962 - Admission sticker fee first used.
- 1966 - Twin Valley Lake created.
- 1969 - Park entrance visitors station and office completed.
- 1970 - Service building opened.
- 1975 - Outdoor group camp opened.
- 1976 - Outdoor amphitheatre opened ending over two decades of extensive development.

4. Past and Present Management Activities

Governor Dodge State Park was originally used for agricultural purposes. Some of the land had been logged, and it is believed that some limited mining and quarrying occurred.

The park is managed to meet both day use and camping needs, and currently has an annual attendance of 411,000 (1983). Of this, over 124,000 visitors were campers.

Park facilities consist of the following (Figure 4):

- 1) Family campground with 266 sites and a capacity of almost 1,000 users.
- 2) An outdoor group camp that can accommodate from 800 to 1,000 users on eight separate areas.
- 3) Eight separate picnic areas totaling about 33 acres.
- 4) Three open picnic shelters.
- 5) Two boat landings with parking for 64 cars and 50 trailers.
- 6) Outdoor amphitheater with a capacity of 300.
- 7) Two beaches totaling 800 feet in length.
- 8) Two bathhouses with flush toilets, showers, and changing areas.
- 9) Four shower buildings with flush toilets.
- 10) Four flush toilet buildings.
- 11) 24 pit toilet buildings.
- 12) Park entrance visitor station.

- 13) One service-maintenance building.
- 14) One storage barn.
- 15) Two concessions buildings.
- 16) One radio building with tower.
- 17) Four dams (2 top draw, 2 bottom draw).
- 18) 13 wells.
- 19) Nine septic systems.
- 20) 15.55 miles of park roads, all but 2.5 miles are blacktop.
- 21) 1,205 parking spaces.
- 22) Two miles of nature trail.
- 23) 19 miles of hiking trail.
- 24) 15.5 miles of cross-country ski trails (all are used for hiking in warmer weather).
- 25) 20 miles of horseback-snowmobile trail.
- 26) Two trailer sanitation dumping stations.
- 27) 548 picnic tables.
- 28) 90 grills and 250 fire rings.
- 29) Outdoor stage used for summer Symphony of the Hills Music Concerts.

The project area is part of the Governor Dodge Work Unit that includes Governor Dodge, Blue Mound, 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:

- 8 permanent (superintendent, assistant superintendent, clerk, facilities repair worker, park ranger, two park patrolmen, auto mechanic)
- 1 seasonal
- 20-25 Limited Term Employees

The following are the attendance figures for the last ten years:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Visitations</u>	<u>Campers</u>
1974	452,247	102,549
1975	470,140	108,616
1976	536,911	106,334
1977	416,368	114,540
1978	511,458	102,856
1979	400,944	119,994
1980	408,054	106,727
1981	378,933	130,004
1982	416,730	114,656
1983	411,016	124,679

B. RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

1. Geology

Lying within the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin, Governor Dodge's land forms escaped the crushing and grinding actions of the state's glacial periods. St. Peter's sandstone is the prominent rock that makes up most of the park's ridges, hills, cliffs, buttes, and mesas.

Eons ago, the geology of the park had a real sandwich effect, consisting of limestones, shales, and sandstones created from sedimentation of ancient island seas. Most of the limestone and shale were removed by erosion, leaving mostly sandstone. Evidence of more sandwiching can be seen in the park's two main valleys where more pronounced erosion has exposed a variety of additional layers.

The upper layer of St. Peter's sandstone rests upon Prairie du Chien limestone, which in turn overlay more ancient Cambrian and pre-Cambrian rock. The present topography of the park is estimated to be the result of 400 million years of erosion.

2. Soils

The soils of the park vary from rich loams on the ridge tops and in the flatter valleys, to sandy loams and sands on the slopes and below the sandstone precipices. The valley slopes support hundreds of great sandstone blocks that have broken from rock walls above and have rolled and tumbled to their present situations. A small percent of the park's valleys is in alluvial soil types.

3. Water Resources

Governor Dodge contains a variety of water features including two major impoundments (Cox Hollow and Twin Valley Lakes), three ponds, and a number of springs and streams.

Cox Hollow Lake

Cox Hollow Lake is a flowage that was constructed in 1959 at the headwaters of Mill Creek. The flowage has a surface area of 95 acres, a maximum depth of 29 feet, and a volume of 1,200 acre feet. The shoreline is 3.3 miles in length. The lake is considered to be fertile with a pH of 8.2 and a total alkalinity of 170 parts per million. The flowage is fed by several small streams and springs, and has a flow turnover rate of longer than one year and an outflow rate of two cubic feet per second. Rooted aquatic growth on the lake is generally restricted to those waters of five feet or less in depth. Development around the lakeshore consists of a 400-foot swimming beach and day use area, a boat launch, and several one-car pull-off picnic areas.

A number of fish stocking programs have occurred since the construction of the flowage. Included were northern pike and largemouth bass in 1958, rainbow trout from 1969 to 1975 and walleye from 1975 to present. In addition, bluegills were probably introduced accidentally by fishermen around 1960. Northern pike and trout are no longer found in the flowage. Other fish found in Cox Hollow Lake are yellow perch, bullheads, crappies, pumpkinseed sunfish, carp, white sucker, and various minnows.

In addition to stocking, a variety of programs have occurred in an effort to maintain or improve the fishery of the flowage. Helixors were used in the lake from 1966 to 1969 in an effort to increase the amount of oxygen for the fishery food base. The flowage was chemically treated in 1965 to alter the balance of the fish population. The lake was drawn down and chemically treated in 1969 to restore the fishery balance.

Twin Valley Lake

Twin Valley Lake is a flowage constructed in 1967 at the headwater of Mill Creek and about 2,000 feet northeast of Cox Hollow Lake. The flowage has a surface area of 150 acres, a maximum depth of 32 feet, and a volume of 1,718 acre feet. The shoreline is 5.6 miles in length. The lake is considered to be fertile with a pH of 8.4 and a total alkalinity of 160 parts per million.

The flowage is fed by an outflow stream from Cox Hollow Lake, a small spring-fed stream, and several small springs, and has a flow turnover rate of three times per year and an outflow of approximately 10 cubic feet per second. Rooted aquatic growth in the lake is generally restricted to those waters at eight feet or less in depth. Development around the lakeshore consists of a 400 foot swimming beach and day use area and a boat launch.

As in Cox Hollow Lake, a number of fish stocking programs have occurred since the construction of the flowage. Included were northern pike in 1967, hybrid muskies in 1971 through 1977, rainbow trout in 1973, true muskies from 1979 to the present, and walleye beginning in 1982. Northern pike are no longer found in the flowage and rainbow trout have probably disappeared. All of the other fish species found in Cox Hollow Lake have migrated into Twin Valley Lake.

Ponds

A number of man-made ponds existed about 10 years ago in the area of the outdoor group camp. However, most of the dams creating the ponds were poorly constructed and have been breached in the ensuing years so that only one pond of significance remains. Halverson Lake, the largest and only remaining pond is eleven acres in size and has maintained a bass-bluegill-crappie fishery.

Historically, access to the pond was walk-in, but construction of the group camp opened road access to Halverson Lake. Though no information is currently available on the effects of the improved access, it is likely that it has had a negative impact on the pond's fishery.

Streams

The park contains three streams with adequate permanent flow to contain a fishery or have some fish management potential. Two of the streams flow into Cox Hollow Lake and the third stream into Twin

Valley Lake. At least two of the streams, one flowing into the south fork of Cox Hollow Lake and the stream that flows into the north fork of Cox Hollow Lake have potential to be managed for brook trout.

The fishery potential on these small streams would probably be limited by heavy user pressure from the park. Forage fish are found in all of the park's streams. The outflow from Twin Valley Lake is the headwaters of Mill Creek, a managed trout stream. Only a small portion of this stream is found within the park boundary.

4. Vegetative Cover (Figure 6)

Vegetative types at Governor Dodge State Park are split between forest and grasslands, resulting in a mosaic pattern. The forests are basically oak-hickory in type with many dozens of other species of trees and shrubs mixed in. Much of the wooded area of the park appears headed toward a climax vegetative community of northern hardwoods which are comprised mainly of sugar maple and basswood. Also scattered in the park, particularly around the bluffs, are white and jack pine.

One of the property's more interesting vegetative characteristics is the large number of remnant apple trees and orchards. Due to the property's agricultural farmstead heritage, a large number of apple trees remain for forage throughout the park.

The park's open areas have, for the most part, been recently farmed and could revert in a variety of successional ways. In some cases boxelder, prickly ash, sumac, and black raspberry have moved in. Some open areas support prairie remnants of varying quality. Other open areas of the park have been planted to a variety of species, including black walnut, ash, spruce, red pine, and European Larch. Still other areas are sharecropped.

Understory plants seem to be most conspicuous in the shaded deep soils of the lower valley slopes. Here may be found large dense communities of fern and numerous wildflowers. The park's limited lowlands produce a variety of wetland species. The beaver population, however, has been altering the park's wetland due to their vigorous dam building endeavors.

The cover types seen on the property are:

- 24% recreational open space
- 20% recreational woodlands
- 18% oak woods
- 16% grasslands and abandoned farm fields
- 10% central hardwoods
- 5% open water
- 2% northern hardwoods
- 2% conifer plantations
- 1% upland brush
- 1% lowland brush
- 1% other

The bulk of the oak-hickory association is at, or beyond, maturity. The overstory is deteriorating due to increasing age. Northern hardwoods are in the understory and suppressed by the oaks.

The Pine Cliff Scientific Area covers about 18 acres on the southeast shore of Cox Hollow Lake and consists of a relic stand of red, white, and jack pines.

Small seed orchards of green ash and black walnut are maintained on the property by forest management.

5. Wildlife

The park and its environs provide habitat for a wide variety of animals. Included are the following mammals: white-tailed deer, raccoon, coyote, red fox, gray fox, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, rabbit, opossum, woodchuck, mink, skunk, beaver, weasel, ground squirrel, shrews, mice, moles, and voles. Several bat species are also present, with the little brown bat being the most common. The only hunting allowed in the park is a nine-day permit only muzzleloader gun deer season held in November. This season began in 1972 and is used to minimize browsing damage within the park.

Major upland game birds found on the site include turkey, ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, Hungarian partridge, and ring-necked pheasant. The first three species are the most common. Woodcock may be found in the park during spring and fall migration, but are unlikely to nest there. A small number of mallards, blue-winged teal, and wood ducks have nested within the park boundary.

Nongame bird species are numerous within the park. Nearly 100 species of songbirds have been observed on the property. In addition, six hawks, two owls, and three large marsh species have been noted. Snake species present include the bullsnake, fox snake, Eastern and Plain garter snake, hognose snake, brown snake, and milk snake. Though there have been no recent sightings of timber rattlesnake, the property is within its range.

Turtles include snapping, painted, and ornate box species. The frogs are leopard, green, gray tree, and Blanchard's cricket. American toads have also been observed in the park.

Endangered and threatened species seen at Governor Dodge include the following: bald eagle, osprey, red-shouldered hawk, loggerhead shrike, ornate box turtle, and Blanchard's cricket frog. Of these, only the ornate box turtle and the cricket frog are residents of the park. Any development activity will account for the needs of these species.

A listing of park animals and a record of deer hunts are found in the appendix.

6. Site Inventory

	<u>Acres</u>
Undeveloped area	4,731.5
Trails	25
Family campground	90
Outdoor group campground	7
Picnic area	82
Roads and parking	45
Beach and sunning areas	7
Boat landings	1
Maintenance, administrative, and residential areas	15
Symphony of the Hills	5
Cemetery	1
Amphitheatre	2.5
Scientific area	18

7. Land Use Potential (Figure 5)

Lands within the park boundary are classified as Intensive Recreation Development (IRD), Public Use Natural Area (N), Extensive Recreation Area (ERA), Scientific Area (S), and Administrative (AD₁).

Intensive Recreation Development (IRD) accounts for approximately 400 acres and includes camping, picnicking, beach, and trail use, the boat landing, roads, parking, Symphony of the Hills, and the amphitheatre.

About 2,500 acres are classified as Public Use Natural Area (N). These include tracts of land that are relatively undisturbed ecosystems that can be enjoyed by the public for general nature study, education, and aesthetic appreciation, under certain restrictions, without threat of destruction.

The Pine Cliff Scientific Area (S) (Figure 8) consists of a relic stand of red, white, and jack pines, and is located on 18 acres of the southeast shore of Cox Hollow Lake. About 15 acres of the property, including the Park Entrance Visitors Station, the shop storage area, the storage barn, and the concessions buildings are classified as administrative (AD₁).

The remainder of the site is the Extensive Recreation Area (ERA) and consists generally of the property's back country and buffer area. This classification accounts for about 2,139 acres.

8. Historical and Archaeological Features

The State Historical Society has identified three archaeological sites in the park. The best known to park users is the Governor Dodge rock shelter, located in the southwestern area of the park (Appendix C). A second location is a campsite located on a ridgetop in the south central part of the property, and a third site is two conical mounds located also in the south central portion of the park.

The State Historical Society believes that there is a very high probability that there are other archaeological sites in the park which have yet to be discovered. They recommend that prior to undertaking any ground-disturbing activities within the park, that the DNR contact the Society to determine whether an archaeological survey is needed.

C. MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

1. The demand for family campsites far exceeds the supply during the summer weekends. In 1982, at least 7,320 units consisting of 29,280 users were turned away. It is estimated that the numbers would be much greater except that many campers were discouraged because of the weekend radio camper reports and past experiences.
2. Nutrient runoff from the south and west edges of the property are major contributors to excess fertility in Twin Valley and Cox Hollow Reservoirs.
3. Casual rock climbing on the cliffs, particularly in the outdoor group camp, have led to three fatalities in the last eight years, as well as a number of injuries.
4. Raccoon vandalism is on the increase in the family campgrounds.
5. Damage to the resource has been incurred due to a growing beaver population. Numerous small trees have been cut and flooding due to damming has caused trail damage and the loss of vegetation.
6. Park visitor over-use has been occurring at Cox Hollow Beach, at Cox Hollow Campground, at "Indian Joes" Cave, and at Stephan's Falls.
7. The park entrance sign is too small and appears to be located in the wrong place. A combination of high speed traffic and sign location makes it difficult to see the entrance when coming to the park from the north. Traffic tends to overshoot the park as the entrance sign is located on a south-facing slope.
8. Many electrical boxes are located too far from the campsites.
9. There are not enough electric sites to meet demand.
10. A flush toilet building at Twin Valley Lake Picnic Area is poorly located and non-accessible to both the park user and for maintenance.
11. The Cox Hollow picnic area concession building is undersized, old, and deteriorating.
12. There is growing conflict, particularly at Cox Hollow Lake near the beach, between fishing-oriented boaters and the swimming-oriented rafters.

13. Accelerating erosion on trails, stream and lake banks, and steep slopes has been occurring due to heavy rains and overuse.
14. The large dumpsters in the high use areas are large and unsightly.
15. Too much pressure on the Twin Valley Lake bathhouse showers is occurring, apparently from outdoor group camp users nearby.
16. The gravel outdoor group camp roads get very dusty and rough. They tend to rut in wet weather.
17. There is no handicapped access to the beaches, boat launch areas, or the amphitheatre.
18. The pit toilets at the Box Canyon and Cox Hollow beach and campground are deteriorating.
19. Many small items such as picnic tables, grills, fire rings, and trash cans are deteriorating.
20. The park office building is overcrowded and inadequate to handle the park staff.
21. Utility lines at the park entrance visitors station and Cox Hollow beach present an unsightly environmental intrusion.
22. There is inadequate storage space for equipment and supplies. The deteriorating barn used for storage is inconvenient and susceptible to vandalism.

D. RECREATION NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION

Governor Dodge State Park is located in the Wisconsin Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 1981 Region 8, which includes Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland Counties. Seventy percent of the region's population lives in rural areas. However, the region is readily accessible from highly populated areas of southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and northeast Iowa.

The following are the recreation types provided at Governor Dodge, and the 1981 SCORP's supply, demand, and need data relative to that type.

1. Camping

The 266 utilized campsites at Governor Dodge sustained 115,780 family camper days in 1983. There were also 8,899 camper days recorded in the group tent camping area. Camping use has been increased during the past 10 years by over 22,000 camper days.

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

2. Picnicking

Governor Dodge has 33 acres of developed picnic area distributed among eight designated areas.

3. Boating

Governor Dodge provides separate boat accesses to Cox Hollow and Twin Valley Lakes.

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

4. Canoeing

Canoe access is available from the same boat access sites stated above. Canoeing is appropriate at Governor Dodge lakes because there are no high speed boats operating.

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

5. Fishing

Cox Hollow and Twin Valley Lakes offer an excellent variety of fish in relatively abundant numbers. Fishing is done from boats and shoreline.

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

6. Cross-Country Skiing

Governor Dodge has 15.5 miles of ski trails.

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

7. Hiking

The park contains 19 miles of hiking trails and two miles of nature trail that is also used for hiking.

SCORP states that Region 8 has need for an additional 117 miles of hiking trails by 1984 over what already exists.

8. Primitive Camping

There are several primitive walk-in campsites at Governor Dodge.

SCORP states that there is a need for 75 sites for the Region by 1984.

9. Snowmobiling

Governor Dodge contains 20 miles of snowmobile trail.

With only 92 miles of snowmobile trails, Region 8 accounts for only one percent of the state's supply of almost 9,000 miles.

Snowmobiling needs are leveling off in many areas of the state. However, Region 8 projects a need for an additional 29 miles of trail by 1984.

10. Horseback Riding

Governor Dodge contains 20 miles of horseback trail.

While the overall supply of horseback trails statewide has declined by more than 25% since 1977, SCORP projects the demand and need for this activity to remain stable in Region 8 and projects no increase in trails.

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. Moderate Increase in Use and Development

Within a period of about ten years from the approved date of this master plan, an additional 234,000 users per year will be accommodated at Governor Dodge for an annual attendance of 650,000. This represents an increase in visitations of more than 50 percent. The problems addressed in the master plan will be studied and solved.

To help alleviate some of those problems, new development and equipment replacement and a number of new employes shall be required. New development will include a family campground, horseman's campground, biker's campground, walk-in campsites, and nature center. There will also be extensive repair and upgrading of existing facilities.

This is the recommended alternative.

3. Substantially Increase the Intensity of Park Development

The present amount of park development represents about 5 percent of the total Governor Dodge ownership. Under this alternative, the percentage of developed area would be substantially increased. A third beach would be established, camping would be increased greatly over alternatives 1 and 2, and an indoor group camp would be developed. More lands would be purchased through a boundary expansion to accommodate additional picnicking and camping beyond what would be appropriate for the existing property.

APPENDIX A

Wildlife of Governor Dodge State Park

Mammals*

<u>Species</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Opossum	X
Short-tailed Shrew	
Prairie Mole	
Little Brown Bat	
Long-Eared Bat	
Silver-Haired Bat	
Pipistrelles	
Big Brown Bat	
Red Bat	
Hoary Bat	
Cottontail Rabbit	X
Woodchuck	X
Striped Ground Squirrel	X
Gray Chipmunk	X
Gray Squirrel	X
Fox Squirrel	X
Flying Squirrel	
Beaver	X
Prairie Deer Mouse	
Northern White-Footed Mouse	
Meadow Vole	
Prairie Vole	
Muskrat	X
Meadow Jumping Mouse	
Gray Fox	X
Red Fox	X
Coyote	X
Raccoon	X
Least Weasel	
Long-Tailed Weasel	
Mink	X
Badger	
Skunk	X
White-Tailed Deer	X

Birds

American Widgeon	Kingbird, Eastern	Tern, Black*
Blackbird, Red-winged	Kingfisher, Belted	Tern, Common*
Bluebird	Kinglet, Golden-crowned	Thrasher, Brown
Bluejay	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	Thrush, Wood
Bobolink	Lark, Horned	Titmouse, Tufted
Bobwhite	Loon, Common*	Towhee, Rufous-sided
Brown Creeper	Mallard	Trush, Swainson's*
Bufflehead	Meadowlark, Eastern	Turkey
Bunting, Blue	Nighthawk, Common	Vireo, Bells*
Bunting, Indigo	Nuthatch, White-breasted	Vireo, Red-eyed
Cardinal	Oriole, Baltimore	Vireo, Warbling
Catbird	Oriole, Orchard	Vireo, Yellow-throated
Chickadee, Black-capped	Osprey*	Vulture, Turkey*
Common Egret	Ovenbird	Warbler, Black and White
Coot, American	Owl, Barred	Warbler, Black-throated green
Cowbird, Brown-headed	Owl, Great Horned	Warbler, Blackburnian*
Crow, American	Pewee, Eastern	Warbler, Blue-winged*
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed	Pheasant, Ring-necked	Warbler, Cape May
Dove, Mourning	Phoebe, Eastern	Warbler, Cerulean
Dove, Rock	Pine Grosbeak*	Warbler, Chestnut-sided
Duck, Wood	Pine Siskin	Warbler, Golden-winged*
Eagle, Bald*	Redstart, American	Warbler, Hooded
Finch, Purple*	Robin	Warbler, Hooded
Flicker, Yellow-shafted	Sanderling*	Warbler, Myrtle*
Flycatcher, Great Crested	Sandpiper, Spotted	Warbler, Nashville*
Flycatcher, Least	Shovler	Warbler, Palm*
Gnatcatcher, Blue-Gray	Shrike, Loggerheaded	Warbler, Wilsons*
Goldfinch, American	Sparrow, Chipping	Warbler, Yellow
Goshawk*	Sparrow, Field	Waterthrush, Louisiana
Grackle, Common	Sparrow, Fox	Waterthrush, Northern
Grebe, Pied-billed	Sparrow, Henslow*	Waxwing, Cedar
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	Sparrow, House (English)	Whip-poor-will
Grouse, Ruffed	Sparrow, Song	Woodcock, American
Hawk, Broad-winged	Sparrow, Tree	Woodpecker, American
Hawk, Red-tailed	Sparrow, White-throated*	Woodpecker, Downy
Hawk, Ruffled legged	Starling, Common	Woodpecker, Hairy
Hawk, Sparrow	Swallow, Barn	Woodpecker, Pileated*
Hawk, Red-shouldered	Swallow, Cliff	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
Hermit Thrush	Swallow, Rough-winged	Woodpecker, Redheaded
Heron, Great Blue*	Swallow, Tree	Wren, Common
Heron, Green	Swift, Chimney	Wren, Winter*
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated	Tanager, Scarlet	Yellowthroat
Killdeer	Teal, Blue-winged	

APPENDIX B

DEER MANAGEMENT UNIT 70C - GOVERNOR DODGE PARK

Total Area: 5,029 acres
 Deer Range: 7 square miles
 Percent Deer Range: 90%

Registered Kill

Year	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Total Deer	Harvest per. sq. mi range	Approved Quota	Permits Issued	Percent Successful	Number of Applications	Percent Receiving A Permit
1972	46	38	12	96	13.7	100	100	96.0	--	--
1973	51	71	20	142	20.3	150	150	94.7	362	41.4
1974	45	74	29	148	21.1	150	150	98.7	355	42.3
1975	49	61	32	142	20.3	150	150	94.7	256	58.6
1976	54	65	25	144	20.6	150	150	96.0	233	64.4
1977	51	50	42	143	20.4	150	150	95.3	208	72.1
1978	45	48	53	146	20.8	150	150	97.3	243	61.7
1979	43	59	42	144	20.6	150	150	96.0	175	85.7
1980	45	47	41	133	19.0	150	201	66.2	454	44.3
1981	31	41	23	95	13.6	150	225	42.2	285	78.9

1972 - 1979 figures are Party Permits.
 1980 - Figures are Hunters Choice Permits.
 1981 - Muzzle loaders only permitted.

APPENDIX C

Excavation of Governor Dodge Rockshelter (1980)

This excavation was conducted during an 8-week period in the summer of 1968. The dig was led by Dr. James Stoltman from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has not written a report on the site as of this date, although he does plan to do so in the future. The following information was received from an interview with Dr. Stoltman on June 4, 1980. The grid of the dig is shown on the attached sheet. From this, one sees that there was a total of 17 pits (5' x 5') dug to a depth of 3-6 feet. Pits Z6 and A6 showed the best stratigraphy of soils and it was from these two pits that the 3 radio carbon dates were taken. Pit A4 was not dug for this is where Professor Wittery dug in 1956.

The earliest occupation was around 7000-6000 B.C. This was evidenced by fragments of plano points which come from the Late Paleo-Indian culture. The occupation was probably the result of a small band of roving Indians who used the site to repair their spear points and moved on.

The next occupation was of the Middle Archaic Culture. Artifacts were most intensive in this level. It is here that two radio carbon dates were taken. There were 2220 B.C. ± 65 and 1670 B.C. ± 65 . This culture is contemporary with the Old Copper Culture in this area. These people were hunters/gathers who moved and with the seasons. This culture does not show evidence of pottery. All materials found were local--indicates a lack of trade. Over 90% of the bones found were deer. A few antlers were found, and the pieces of skull show shed antlers, which indicated winter occupancy.

Another very intensive find of materials occurred in the next level of occupation--the Late Archaic. There are no carbon dates here, but this culture existed from about 1200 B.C. to 500 B.C. Their lifestyle is similar to the Middle Archaic. They probably roamed in groups of two to three families. There is no way to tell if they spent days, weeks, or months at the rockshelter. There is no evidence of post holes or storage pits, which does indicate temporary occupancy.

The next occupancy was of the Middle Woodland Culture. It should be mentioned that here a single pottery shard was found that indicates an Early Woodland people, but one piece is not adequate evidence. The Woodland Cultures are marked by the advent of pottery making; thus, the site now yields pottery besides projectile points and stone tools. There is a radio carbon date from the Middle Woodland Level. It is A.D. 350 ± 55 . This coincides with the 100 B.C.-A.D. 400 time period for this culture. These people were nomadic hunters/gatherers.

The last occupancy at this site was of the Late Woodland or Effigy Mound Culture. Their people were still not farming. Here we found the first evidence of bow and arrow. Before this period, hunting was done with spears.

In conclusion, we find there were 5 levels of inhabitation at this site; with the Early Woodland a possible sixth. The time period overall runs from 7000 B.C. to 1200 A.D. The site yielded a wealth of materials. All of the cultures consisted to nomadic hunters and gatherers, who probably wintered in this immediate area, and spent the rest of the year along the Wisconsin River--15 miles north.

3238L

SEP 11 1984

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

Date: September 10, 1984

File Ref: 1430

To: Dave Weizenicker - P&R/4

From: Dick Lindberg - FOR/4 *DL*

Subject: WRAC Master Plan Comments - Governor Dodge State Park

The Wild Resources Advisory Council is of the opinion that this park contains no wild resource potentials except for those identified for Scientific Areas purposes.

The Council, as a general comment, thinks the plan has a high people orientation without enough focus on protection and management of resource features.

DL:dj



The State of Wisconsin

SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

IN REPLY REFER TO: _____
IN REPLY REFER TO: 2100

August 31, 1984

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

Dear Dave:

We have reviewed the Governor Dodge State Park Concept Master Plan and offer the following comments.

The statements under vegetative management on page 4 are generally acceptable, although not entirely clear. We favor the concept of restoring oak savanna and prairie. However, soil disturbance will be required to restore prairie in what is now "old field" vegetation. For that reason, we question the classification of public use natural area at this time (shown on Figure 7). The criteria for public use natural area imply a natural vegetation type in relatively undisturbed condition. In addition, the description of vegetative management on page 4 includes--shelterwood cutting for the oaks and intensive or clearcut for the aspen may occur (see Figure 7). The map does show several areas of shelterwood manipulation, but also shows several additional and much larger units called timber management improvement areas; these areas are not explained on page 4.

Our recommendation is that tree cutting be limited not only in the public use natural area zone, but also in the extensive recreation zone to that necessary for safety of park visitors. Tree cutting for aesthetics should be limited to the intensive recreation development zones, administrative zones, and in special cases where for disease or insect control (Figure 5).

The map provided as Figure 7 can provide a good means of describing the management intent if it is explained in the text.

Thank you for providing opportunity for our review and comment.

Cordially,

Forest Stearns
Forest Stearns
Chairman

3086L

Date: October 3, 1984

File Ref: 2500/2100

To: Cliff Germain - ER/4

From: D. Weizenicker *D.W.*

Subject: SAPC Comments on Governor Dodge State Park Master Plan

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

As a result of the Council's question on certain areas classified as Public Use Natural Area, the proposed prairie and sites to be maintained as open areas and food patches were changed to the more appropriate Extensive Recreation Area classification.

In addition, the vegetative cover map (Figure 7) was revised by removing the timber site improvement area and designating it as a no vegetative management zone. Timber management or tree cutting will take place only in the areas where the recommended shelterwood and clearcut methods of management are shown on the map.

We thank the Council for reviewing the Governor Dodge Master Plan.

DJK:sbM106

cc: J. Treichel - P&R/4

→ D. Kulhanek - P&R/4

D. Morrissette - Nevin

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

Southern District
District or Bureau
#1732
Docket Number
NR 150.03(2)(e)4
Type List Designation(s)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
(Attach Additional Sheets If Necessary)
(Reference Information Sources Utilized)

Applicant: Department of Natural Resources
Title of Proposal: Governor Dodge State Park - Concept Element
Location: County Iowa
Township 6, 7 North, Range 3 East, West
Section(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, -25, 26, 34, 35, 36
Political Town Dodgeville

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. General Description (brief overview)

Purchase 239.08 acres on three parcels to complete the acreage goal of 5,275 acres. Increase the boundary by 6.5 acres by acquiring land across from the park entrance on the west side of highway 23 from one owner. The acquisition expansion would insure the visual integrity of the park entrance as it's purchase would preclude future development at a key location.

1. Development

- a) Construct a 100 unit family camp loop adjacent to Twin Valley Campground. Support facilities would include blacktop road and parking, shower building, flush and pit toilets, septic disposal, drinking water, trailer dumping station, tables, grills, signing, trash receptacles, landscaping, and 80 electrical sites.
- b) Construct a 15 unit horseman's campground and day use parking area. Governor Dodge possesses 20 miles of horse trails, and there are no state horse campgrounds south of Wildcat Mountain and west of the Kettle Moraines. Support facilities would include a pit toilet, handpump well, blacktop road, parking for 14 vehicles and campers, picnic tables, signing, fire rings, trash receptacles, and landscaping.

- c) Construct a 25 unit bicycle campground. This facility would be in support of the Military Ridge State Bicycle Trail and would provide camping opportunities for bicyclists and trail users only. The site would be located near Cox Hollow Lake or approximately 2 miles from the Military Ridge. Support facilities would include a connecting bicycle trail surfaced with limestone screenings, a loop campground trail, toilets, drinking water, a primitive shower facility, picnic tables, fire rings, trash receptacles, signing and landscaping.
- d) Develop 6 primitive walk-in campsites. The sites would be located near the outdoor group camp along a mowed trail. Design would be flexible so that the trail and sites could be moved periodically. This would allow for the opportunity to rest areas within the scope of the design. Support facilities would include 2 portable single unit pit toilets, a trail head parking lot, picnic tables, fire rings, signing, and landscaping. Drinking water is available near the proposed parking lot at the group camp.
- e) Landscaping of existing sites. This action would include the planting of trees and shrubs in existing campgrounds and picnic areas as well as providing buffer plantings and the establishment of 370 acres of prairie.
- f) Replace the existing concession building at the Cox Hollow picnic area. Construct a concession building at the Twin Valley Picnic Area.
- g) Construct a year around nature center on the plateau north of Cox Hollow Lake. Included would be display area, lecture room, naturalist office and lab, restrooms, and outdoor demonstration space.
- h) Bury overhead utility lines at the park entrance visitors station area and at Cox Hollow Beach.
- i) Enlarge and remodel park office building to facilitate additional public contact and employe space needs due to projected increased park attendance.
- j) Replace one set of pit toilets each (2 sets total) at the Cox Hollow beach picnic area and Cox Hollow Campground.
- k) Pave with blacktop the 2.5 miles of outdoor group camp roads and accompanying parking lots.
- l) Construct primitive shower building to be shared by outdoor group camp and horseman's campground.
- m) Remove Box Canyon toilets and replace with one set of pit toilets at Enee Point picnic area, and provide electricity for the shelter building and toilets.
- n) Provide replacement for 300 picnic tables, 150 fire rings, 50 grills, 40 trash receptacles and a percent of the park's signing.

- o) Provide for erosion control on approximately 10 park sites. Heavy rains in the summer of 1982 created a number of serious erosion problems near Enee Point, above Cox Hollow Lake, at the boat launch sites and at several trail and campsite areas.
- p) Blacktop an 80 car parking lot at the Twin Valley Lake picnic area.
- q) Develop a 2,000 foot long handicapped nature-hiking trail.
- r) Facilitate handicapped access at the amphitheatre, Cox Hollow Beach, the boat launches, the group camp and upgrade facilities in the family campgrounds.
- s) Replace 2.3 miles of two lane blacktop road between the PEVS and Cox Hollow Beach and at the Twin Valley entrance road; and 1.9 miles of one way blacktop road at Twin Valley and Cox Hollow campgrounds.
- t) Add electrical hookup to 35 sites and upgrade 15 electrical sites at Twin Valley Campground.
- u) Build an open picnic shelter at Twin Valley picnic area.
- v) Relocate existing horse-snowmobile and cross-country ski trails. Construct three miles of new trails to accommodate horse-snowmobile and cross-country ski trail relocation. These changes are necessary to accommodate snowmobile traffic from the Military Ridge Trail.
- w) Construct 40' x 120' cold storage building at shop-storage area.

2. Management

a) Vegetative

The intent of the Master Plan is to maintain diversity of cover and cover types within the park. Presettlement conditions of Governor Dodge were probably oak savannah, which provided a mixture of woodland and open space. As part of the cover plan, a number of open spaces as well as several prairie sites will be maintained and created. One large prairie site of several hundred acres will be created on the west-central part of the property. Also, within the cover plan is a large area where no vegetative manipulation will occur, except to promote intensive recreation, safety and aesthetics. This covers the area of extensive development and associated buffer space. Three share crop and two food patch sites for wildlife enhancement will be maintained.

It is not an objective to maximize timber production. The primary purpose of the park is to promote recreation. The predominant vegetative cover of oak will be succeeded by more shade tolerant species on sites with better soils and on northern and eastern exposures. In some locations where the Department may wish to perpetuate stands of oak and aspen, some woodland manipulation in the form of sheltered cutting from the oaks and intensive or clearcut for the aspen may occur. There are also two sites in the park where boxelder would be eradicated.

b) Wildlife

Wildlife production and harvest is not one of the objectives for Governor Dodge State Park. Consequently, the park will not be managed to maximize wildlife habitat or production.

Where consistent with the overall objectives for the park, some measures will be taken to promote wildlife habitat such as share cropping, development of food patches and the maintenance of open spaces. The edges of the openings will be kept in brush. Individual open spaces will not be kept in a uniform state of mowing or clearing. Diversity within each open space will be promoted. Selected aspen stands will be managed as such in perpetuity.

Permit only, deer hunting will continue to coincide with the regular November gun deer season. This action has been used to minimize browsing damage in the park and adjoining croplands and will continue as long as it is practical for game management reasons and does not present a hazard to other park users. Small game and other forms of hunting are not authorized by Statute.

c) Fish and Water

Cox Hollow and Twin Valley Lakes

A continuing effort will be maintained to increase the average size of the property's panfish through a stable foodchain including a stable gamefish population. True muskie stocking of two fish per surface acre per year will continue at Twin Valley Lake. Walleye stocking will also continue on an annual basis at both lakes. A study will be conducted to assess the effect of the introduction of walleye on the panfish population. The largemouth bass population will be maintained on a self-sustaining basis. No management plans are projected for the the remaining fishery. No plans for drawdowns or chemical treatment of the lakes are anticipated.

Halverson Lake

No management of the self-sustaining fishery of Halverson Lake is being considered until assessments of increased user pressure have been completed.

Streams

Beaver infestation at Governor Dodge will be carefully monitored and controlled if necessary to prevent damage to the landscape and the fishery of the park's three permanent streams. Though limited trout fishery potential exists at the park an experimental brook trout stocking program will be conducted on the south fork feeder stream to Cox Hollow Lake. This program would contain a no trout fishing regulation on the property. Mill Creek will continue to be managed as a trout stream.

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

Purchase of land within the boundary would eliminate undesirable use and would provide necessary buffer. Purchase of land across from Highway 23 would protect against undesirable development.

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

County zoning approval.

4. Estimated Cost and Funding Source

\$1,800,000 (1983 cost) ORAP funding.

PROPOSED PHYSICAL CHANGES

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

New development would involve approximately 65 acres on the following sites: family campground (30 acres), bicycle campground (10 acres), walk in campsites (10 acres), Nature Center (5 acres), Horseman's Campground (5 acres), Trail development (4 acres), new buildings (1 acre). Very little topographic change would occur as the development sites have been chosen to conform to the shape of the landscape.

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

Construction of handicapped access to two beaches and to two boat launching areas would occur at existing sites and have limited impacts. Handicapped access into beach waters would require construction of a paved ramp with a handrail. Access to boat launch areas would be primarily for fishing and would require development of a short pier with handrails. Pilings would be driven into the lake bed for construction of the piers.

7. Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures

The construction of toilets, the nature center, the concessions building, shower buildings, picnic shelter, office addition and cold storage building would occur on quite level sites. Only minor excavation would be required for construction. Campground road construction would total about 6,500 feet.

8. Emissions and Discharges

Additional sewage generated by development would be either self contained in sealed vault toilets or would utilize a septic system.

Minor air pollution would occur for short periods during periodic prairie burns.

9. Other Changes

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Figure 1. State Location Map | Figure 5. Land Use Classification Map |
| Figure 2. County Location Map | Figure 6. General Vegetation Types Map |
| Figure 3. Ownership Map | Figure 7. Potential Vegetation Cover Map |
| Figure 4. Development Map | Figure 8. Scientific Map |

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Information Based On (check all that apply):

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

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

The site is part of the Driftless Area and is generally rolling to hilly in topography. The soils are generally well drained, rich loams on ridge tops, and well drained, sandy loams or sands on slopes and at the base of the sandstone precipices. The project contains only a small percentage of lowland soils. Most upland soils have few developmental restrictions except those associated with slope. The site contains two major impoundments (Cox Hollow Lake - 95 acres, 29 feet deep and Twin Valley Lake - 150 acres, 32 feet deep), three ponds and a number of streams and springs.

12. Biological

a. Flora

Vegetation types at the park are split between forest and grassland resulting in a mosaic pattern. The forests are basically oak-hickory in type with many dozens of other species of trees and shrubs mixed in. Much of the park's wooded areas appear to be evolving toward a climax vegetative community of northern hardwoods. Most of the park's open lands are abandoned farm fields. Some white and jack pine are found around the sandy soils of the precipices. The cover types of the property are: 24% recreational open space, 20% recreational woodlands, 18% oak woods, 16% grasslands and abandoned farm fields, 10% central hardwoods 5% open water, 2% northern hardwoods, 2% conifer plantations, 1% upland brush, 10% central hardwoods, 5% open water, 2% northern hardwoods, 2% conifer plantations, 1% upland brush, 1% lowland brush, 1% other. Areas to be kept open such as the proposed 370 acre prairie would be done by burns or mechanical methods.

b. Fauna

The park contains deer, raccoon, coyote, fox, squirrel, rabbit, opossum, woodchuck, mink, skunk, beaver, weasel, ground squirrel, shrews, mice, moles, voles and bats. The site contains numerous upland game birds, some water fowl and many nongame species. The park has two endangered or threatened species: the ornate box turtle and Blanchard's cricket frog. The property contains many other reptiles. The park's fishery includes

largemouth bass, walleye, muskie, bluegill, yellow perch, bullheads, crappies, pumpkinseed sunfish, carp, white sucker and minnows.

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

The acquisition of 239.08 acres on three parcels to complete the approved project would create a zoning change from agricultural to recreational. The addition of 6.5 acres to the project goal would also require a zoning change.

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

The State Historical Society has identified three archaeological sites in the park. They are 1) a rock shelter campsite located on the southwest side of the property, 2) a campsite located on the southeast corner of the property and 3) two conical burial mounds also located in the southeast area of the property..

Endangered species found in the park are the ornate box turtle and Blanchard's cricket frog. Bald eagle, osprey, red-shouldered hawk and loggerhead shrike are also seen on the property.

The Pine Cliff Scientific Area (18 acres) is located on the southeast shore of Cox Hollow Lake and contains a relic stand of red, white and jack pines.

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 the long term benefits would far outweigh the short term disruption. Minor turbidity would occur during construction of the handicapped beach ramps and boat launch piers. There would be no involvement of the park's wetlands.

16. Biological

Few trees would be removed in areas of development as sites chosen are generally open, or moderately open. Efforts would be made to utilize open space wherever possible. Trees removed would be salvaged for use in the park. In areas to be kept open by burning, such as the proposed prairie, actions would be closely controlled and monitored by the Department's Bureau of Fire Control. Some animal displacement may occur due to construction, especially those living in grasslands, but this amount would be minimal. Construction of handicapped facilities at the beaches and boat launches would have minimal effect to marine life.

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

Development and construction would play a significant role in a moderate increase in attendance from 416,000 in 1982 to about 650,000 visitors in 1994. This would result in higher traffic counts on local and regional roads as well as more activity on the waters and lands of Governor Dodge State Park. The park's large acreage would still be generally lightly used with 94% of the

property undeveloped. Increased attendance in the park would have a beneficial effect on the area's economy.

Acquisition of the remaining lands still needed to complete the project would remove 239.08 acres from township tax rolls as would the boundary addition of 6.5 acres. Payment in lieu of taxes will be made. No condemnation would be used in land purchase.

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

No construction activity will occur in the area of the three archaeological sites. The two endangered animal species are not expected to be affected as development will occur away from their habitat.

19. Probable Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided

Some wildlife and vegetation would be destroyed or disrupted during construction. The increase in attendance will put added traffic pressure on area and regional highways which may result in some additional repair and increased potential for accidents. Increased use within the park may involve some environmental degradation as well as a reduction of the social experience.

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 park would 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. By not providing additional facilities and opportunities, the Department would deviate from the Natural Resources board and Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1981 policies of expanded multiple recreation in southern Wisconsin. Erosion, maintenance, management and enforcement problems would probably accelerate, causing a variety of inconveniences and degradation in the park.
2. Substantially Increase the Intensity of Park Development. The recommended proposal calls for a total of about 6% development in the park. This alternative would considerably increase the amount of developed acreage. A third beach would be established, camping would be increased greatly beyond the proposal and an indoor group camp would be developed. More lands would be purchased through a boundary expansion to accommodate additional day use in camping beyond what would be appropriate for the existing boundary. Public sentiment would probably reach a hostile state because of the increase beyond the large amount of public land the state already owns in the area. Expansion potential is generally limited by public roads, and acquisition of additional lands would remove the single access policy to park management presently enjoys. A dramatic increase in attendance would

seriously strain the carrying capacity of the area and regional roads. Acquisition and development costs could prove to be prohibitive.

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 road traffic and on the site's lands and water.

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.

3. 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 indicates a serious controversy or unresolved conflicts concerning alternatives 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 and would require no zoning change.

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?

The periodic burning of the prairie area would have some short term air pollutant effect. This action would have an insignificant impact on the environment.

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?

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 and discussion concerning archaeological sites on the property.
Continuing	Rich Purin - Gov. Dodge Superintendent	Variety of information concerning property development, characteristics and management.
Continuing	Blair Anderson -	Fire control and Prairie establishment
Continuing	Tom Hauge	Wildlife Management
Continuing	Gene Van Dyck	Fish Management and Water Resources
Continuing	Jim Widder	Vegetative Management
Continuing	LeRoy Wiesner	Law Enforcement

Project Name: Gov Dodge State Park - Concept Element County: 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 <i>David J. Johnson</i>	DATE 5-18-84
NOTED: AREA DIRECTOR OR BUREAU DIRECTOR <i>Jim March by H. E. Min</i>	DATE 5-18-84

Number of responses to public notice 2

Public response log attached?..... yes

*Copy sent to
Johnson*

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OR DIRECTOR OF BEI (OR DESIGNEE) <i>Lewis K. Schan</i>	DATE 10/2/84
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This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate District Director or the Director of BEI. If you believe you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Codes establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to ss. 227.15 and 227.16, Stats., you have 30 days after service of the decision to file your petition for review. The respondent in an action for judicial review is the Department of Natural Resources. You may wish to seek legal counsel to determine your specific legal rights to challenge a decision. This notice is provided pursuant to s. 227.11(2), Stats.