

PERROT STATE PARK
CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

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Master Plan Concept Element
Perrot State Park

Perrot is a scenic state park located on the Mississippi River in Trempealeau County. It is characterized by scenic 500-foot bluffs and breathtaking views of the Mississippi River. The park is also rich in archaeological and historical sites. Traditional recreational activities such as picnicking, camping, hiking and sightseeing are offered as well as nature study, fishing, and cross-country skiing.

SECTION I - ACTIONS

A. GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Goal

To provide a scenic state park which will serve the recreational, educational, and nature experience needs for 250,000 total annual visitors while conserving and protecting the natural, scenic, historical, and archaeological features of the property for present and future generations.

Annual Objectives

1. Accommodate individuals who are handicapped through the proper design, construction, management, and maintenance of the property and its facilities.
2. Accommodate 150,000 picnickers.
3. Provide a quality recreational experience for 30,000 campers.
4. Accommodate 25,000 hikers and cross-country skiers.
5. Provide boat and canoe access to the Mississippi River and its tributaries for 20,000 users.
6. Conserve, maintain, and interpret unique features including the prairie scientific area, Indian mounds, archaeological sites, and natural features of the park for 25,000 users.
7. Maintain deer densities at about 20 per square mile.
8. Manage and maintain the property's scenic and natural qualities by restoring and maintaining a diversity of vegetative cover types.

Additional Benefits

Provide for other recreational and educational uses such as bird watching, wildlife observation, gathering of nuts, berries, and mushrooms.

B. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

It is recommended that the property remain classified a scenic state park. This would provide for a full complement of recreational facilities as well as the protection, conservation and interpretation of the natural environment, scientific areas, and historical and archaeological sites. It is anticipated that use will increase up to 25% during the ten-year period following approval of the master plan and subsequent addition of new facilities.

Proposed park improvements include upgrading existing campsites and adding approximately 50 family camp sites as needed, developing a 100-person capacity outdoor group camp, and rejuvenating day-use facilities. Items contained in this latter category include renovating picnic areas, constructing additional shelters, developing four more miles of cross-country ski trails, upgrading all existing trails and providing a handicapped accessible nature trail with wildlife observation deck. Shoreline erosion control, providing a park concession (within the existing stone shelter), replacing hand pumps and pit toilet facilities as needed, and general landscape planting and site work will also be undertaken.

Park operations will be made more effective by the construction of a park entrance visitor station on the north entry and construction of a seasonal sticker booth on the south entry. The park road will be resurfaced to provide better transportation within the park proper. The north entrance road will include a bike lane from the Great River Trail which is located adjacent to the park's north boundary.

Nature interpretation and education will be stressed on the property and, therefore, facilities including a nature center, amphitheater, self-guided nature trail and observation deck will be constructed. It is proposed that the nature center be constructed in combination with the proposed park entrance visitor station (PEVS) located on the north entry point. Individual interpretive displays will be placed at various Indian mounds, and at the historical and archaeological site.

Vegetative management will include prairie maintenance, landscape planting in the intensive use areas, and extensive area vegetative management including such things as pruning and thinning pine plantations and limited oak cutting to perpetuate that type near intensive use areas. Miscellaneous actions will include erosion control and minor renovation and replacement of existing day-use area facilities.

Snowmobile trails were phased out in 1984 and no new trails are proposed in this plan. All snowmobile traffic will be directed to the Great River Trail which abuts the north and east sections of the property.

Development (Figure 3)

Development needs of the park over the next ten years have been identified and placed into three development phases.

Phase I will include the placement of a temporary park entrance visitor station along the north entrance of the park. This facility will remain in place until a permanent visitor station-nature center complex can be constructed. In addition, a sticker booth will be placed on the park road near the south entrance to complement the PEVS facility. It will be operated during peak use periods to provide visitor services and sticker sales. The interior park road system will also receive resurfacing and shoulder work in order to keep the road in good condition.

Phase I will also entail the development of a 100-person capacity outdoor group camp, an upgrading of the family campground including resurfacing spurs, shade tree planting, turf repair on pads and relocating the electrical system closer to individual campsites, development of a 1/4 to 1/2 mile-long handicapped accessible nature trail with observation deck and overlook areas on the bay.

Renovation of the Brady's Bluff hiking trail, upgrading four miles of cross-country ski trail, replacement of a four-unit pit toilet in the Indian mounds use area, the construction of shoreline and trail erosion control structures, renovation of the stone shelter to provide a park concession, replacement of picnic tables, grills, fire rings and other furnishings, and general landscape plantings are the remainder of Phase I projects. The estimated development cost for Phase I is \$425,000.

Phase II will entail the replacement of the pit toilet in the campground with a new four-unit vault toilet, the replacement of hand pumps in various day use areas, the construction of a 150-person capacity amphitheater south of the stone shelter, and the construction of 3 small shelters along ski trails. General landscape planting in the campground and day use areas will also occur. Estimated development costs of Phase II is \$60,000.

Phase III includes the replacement of toilets in the Sand Cliff picnic area with a new four-unit vault toilet. If needed, an additional 50 campsites will be constructed on the north loop of the existing campground road system. Finally, additional picnic tables, grills and fire rings will be replaced and general landscape plantings and vegetative management will continue in the intensive use areas. Estimated Phase III cost is \$270,000.

Total estimated development cost based on 1987 construction figures is approximately \$755,000. All proposed development will be dependent upon available funds and statewide priorities. Additional and/or up-to-date justification will also be required.

All areas proposed for major development will be examined for the presence of endangered or threatened wild animals and wild plant species. If listed species are found, development will be suspended until the district endangered and nongame species coordinator is consulted, the site is evaluated, and appropriate protective measures taken. In addition, prior to any major ground disturbing activities within the park, the Department will consult with the State Historical Society to determine whether archaeological and/or historical testing is warranted.

Management

1. Facility

The park is now the responsibility of the Perrot Work Unit Manager. The park staff consists of three permanent employees including the work unit supervisor, park superintendent II and park ranger II positions. In addition, approximately 4,000 hours of limited term employee (LTE) labor is provided during the primary park use season. The LTE work includes clerical, maintenance, park patrol, and naturalist duties. It is proposed that some of these LTE hours be converted to a 6-month permanent position for the natural resources patrol officer and naturalist positions. Additional LTE hours will be needed to operate the sticker booth associated with the two-entrance public contact system. Increased sticker sale revenue should exceed LTE salary expenditures associated with operating the booth.

As a unit of the Wisconsin State Park system, Perrot has been developed and managed under Chapter 27, Laws of Wisconsin; specifically, section 27.01, which governs state parks. The property is also managed under the provisions of Wisconsin Administrative Code 45, which contains rules of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources pertaining to the conduct of visitors at state parks, state forests, and other properties under the jurisdiction of the Department.

2. Vegetative Management (Figure 4)

The goal of vegetative management will be to maintain the health, vigor and diversity of the vegetation in the park. This will be accomplished by removing single, clumps, or stands of trees, pruning the existing stock and planting new materials in and/or adjacent to the park's intensive use areas. Under most circumstances, natural succession will continue to meet the objective of providing a diversity of tree species and age classes in the extensive areas of the park.

Most of the vegetative management within Perrot Park has and will continue to occur in the pine and oak types. Management activities have included thinning and pruning of pine plantations, and selective removal of wilt infested oak stands, as well as dead and diseased trees located throughout the park.

Approximately 310 acres of oak type and 41 acres of plantation should be maintained under a program of vegetative management. Due to public use of the park and the fact that ski and hiking trails are interspersed throughout the oak type, this area will be managed to achieve the objective of old growth timber and aesthetics associated with large trees. To perpetuate and maintain the oak in a healthy, vigorous condition, several management options may be used such as selective cutting to encourage seeding (shelterwood method), or prescribed burning.

The black walnut trees located throughout the park will be managed on an individual tree basis due to their high quality and value. Trees that have died or that are under stress will be salvaged.

The pine plantations will continue to receive periodic thinning at 7-10 year intervals to maintain them in a healthy and vigorous condition. The red and white pine can be expected to reach 200+ years of age.

Periodic firewood sales will be open to the general public. Materials in these sales will include the noncommercial thinnings of oak stands, logging debris, and the dead and diseased trees located throughout the park.

Tree planting will be aimed primarily at replacing trees that have died within the campground and recreation areas of the park. Hardwood and conifer species that are native to the area will be planted.

Perrot State Park contains approximately 10.5 acres of prairie remnants that are intensively maintained as part of the Brady's Bluff Prairie Natural areas. These prairie remnants consist of Brady's Bluff summit (1 acre), Brady's Bluff goat prairie (1 acre), Perrot Ridge Valley (3 acres), Perrot Ridge Goat (3 acres), Perrot Ridge Indian Mounds (2 acres), and the Vista (.5 acres). These areas are and will be maintained through rotation burning and removal of encroaching woody vegetation.

Future prescribed burns of these prairie sites are set up on a three-year rotation. The two Brady's Bluff prairie areas will be burned the first year, the Perrot Ridge Indian Mounds and Vista prairies the second year, and the Perrot Ridge Valley prairie the third year. This rotation will allow the naturalist to show people prairies in different stages of encroachment and growth after burns.

3. Wildlife Management

Wildlife species native to the park will benefit by maintaining a variety of habitat types. The cutting, planting, and burning of prairies will help create and sustain diversity. Burning off prairies and bluff faces will prevent successional changes and maintain plant vigor while providing ground cover for nesting songbirds, waterfowl, and small mammals. Some of the small (+1 acre) over-mature aspen stands should be maintained by clear-cutting to guard against disappearance of this type. Due to their small size and limited extent, it may be a good Wisconsin Conservation Corp project.

Historically, hunting and trapping took place in Trempealeau Bay prior to the park's inception and continues to the present day. The termination of such activities would create very strong negative public sentiment and eliminate alternative recreational pursuits. The Trempealeau Bay area contains about 295 acres and is bounded by the normal high watermark on the east boundary, the park ownership line on the north boundary, the federal wildlife refuge dike on the west boundary, and Trempealeau Mountain and the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks on the southwest and south boundary.

A 100 yard "No Shooting" safety zone will be established to the bay side of this boundary and signed during the waterfowl hunting season. Adequate signing is essential within the bay area to guard against any potential hunter-park user conflicts.

A 32-acre island in the Mississippi River under state park ownership is also used for hunting and trapping. It is recommended that the Bay and the island (327 acres total) be transferred to the Bureau of Wildlife Management.

Deer hunting during the gun season will continue as needed to maintain the herd in accordance with management unit 61 overwinter goals.

4. Fish Management

The Trempealeau River and bay within the park boundary supports a diverse fishery and is currently listed as option II commercial fishery water. In 1986 approximately 70,000 pounds of rough fish consisting of buffalo, carp, and drum were harvested at a market value of approximately \$13,400. This sum was paid to the commercial fishermen.

The fishery is currently regulated by Wisconsin's inland season and bag limits and this procedure appears to be adequate. Continuation of the sport and commercial fishery is desirable to provide recreation, food, and a source of income to local residents. No stocking is necessary. Presently, the water access to the bay is adequate to meet the recreational needs of the area. However, future siltation may limit access and necessitate dredging and/or construction of wing dams to keep the boat ramp and channel to the Mississippi River open.

As part of the Department's cooperative effort, Perrot Park personnel have been and continue to maintain the Trempealeau boat landing and Trempealeau Lake's fishery area. Both are outside of the park boundary. Fish management has asked for funds in the Trempealeau Lake's master plan to support this cooperative effort. It is felt that this joint effort should continue.

5. Brady's Bluff Prairie State Natural Area

It is recommended that the boundary of the Brady's Bluff Prairie State Natural Area be expanded to include an additional 55 acres of adjoining bluffs and slopes. The addition will encompass a series of shaded sandstone cliffs which support an interesting variety of vegetation. The natural area will total about 65 acres in size (see Appendix A).

Land Acquisition (Figure 2)

As of January 1988, state ownership was 1,434.51 acres. It is recommended that the current boundary be modified to exclude 295 acres within Trempealeau Bay and a 32-acre island located in the Mississippi River. This land would be transferred to the Bureau of Wildlife Management.

A land exchange between the Federal Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and the park is also needed to clear up ownership within the refuge and the Trempealeau Bay area of the park. A trade will alleviate some management problems experienced by both agencies.

As proposed the park will receive about 36 acres of refuge land (U.S.F.W.S.) in exchange for a 20-acre state-owned parcel.

The land transfer to the Bureau of Wildlife and the land exchange with the U.S.F.W.S. will decrease the current acreage goal of 1,559.25 acres by 347 acres. The new acreage goal for Perrot State Park will be 1,212.25 acres.

Operations, Cost, and Revenue Potential

The 1987 operations budget for Perrot State Park is 114,439. With revenues during this period totalling \$55,170 the revenue to operations cost was 48%.

The revenues generated by the addition of an outdoor group camp as proposed in this master plan and any additional family campsites will increase the revenue to operations ratio. A minimal increase in operations costs is also expected.

Roads, Entrances, and Private Inholdings

Perrot State Park has an interior road system that connects the Village of Trempealeau on the south to the local township roads on the north. All state parks have a policy whereby visitors can drive through the park without a vehicle admission sticker if they do not stop and use the facilities. At Perrot visitors can enter and leave from the south or from the north. Besides providing access to the park, the road has provided a short cut between Winona, Minnesota and points north with the Village of Trempealeau and areas south of the park. It has also been used as a scenic drive. This situation has caused difficulty with sticker sales and subsequent revenue collection as no visitor contact station is located on the road system. The present office is located in the shop building which is sited off the main road for safety and security reasons. A park entrance visitor station (PEVS) is needed to provide better public service to the park visitor, increase revenue collection efficiency, increase efficient use of park personnel, increase park security, as well as meet the recommendations as outlined in the legislative audit report of 1983.

In 1983, the Legislative Audit Bureau recommended that "to increase compliance with the required payment of park admission fees, the Department should exert its apparent authority over roads adjacent to and within state parks or take steps to gain clear enforcement authority if current enforcement efforts are ineffective." This is very applicable to Perrot State Park in that the state owns all of the interior roads within Perrot, yet has an inefficient sticker

sales system. However, the option of developing a single-entrance park does not appear feasible due to the strong local opposition. Over 1,000 people signed a petition against the proposal and sent it to the Governor and other local political representatives. Senator Moen responded that "the audit bureau's recommendations are not cast in stone, since it is not a safety factor or loss of tremendous revenue, the consensus of the individual should prevail."

The lack of a contact station near the entrance often means visitors have to be contacted by park personnel who are on patrol before they buy a park sticker. In order to remedy the situation it is proposed that a park entrance visitor station be constructed at the north entrance and a seasonal sticker booth at the south entrance. Although more money will be expended for facilities and manpower, this should be offset by increased revenue collection efficiency and better public service.

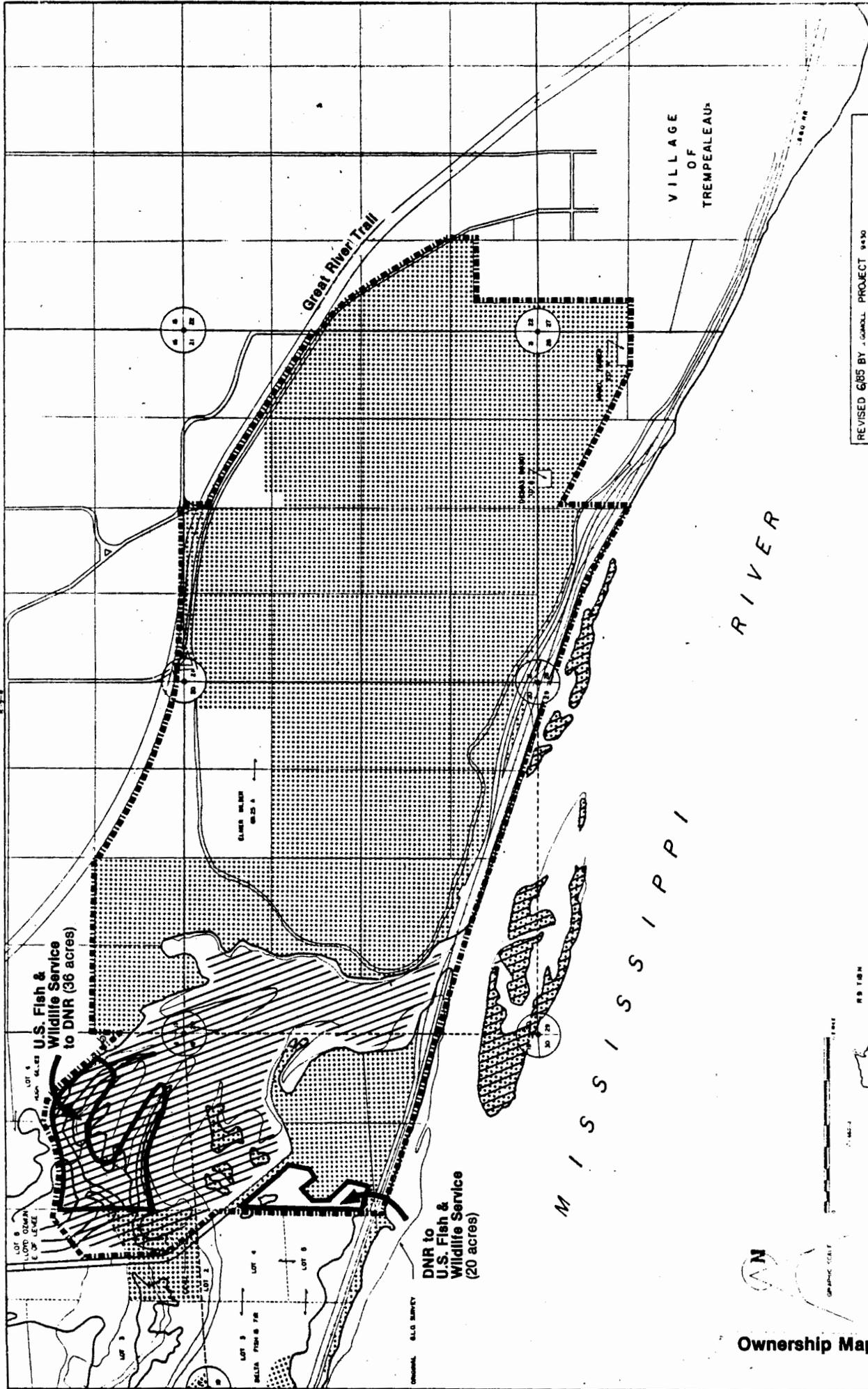
There are 9 private inholdings within the park boundary.

Public Involvement in the Master Planning Process

During the planning process which began in early 1983, a large number of groups and individuals were consulted regarding tentative proposals to be included within the Perrot Park Master Plan. Four local service groups were contacted including the Trempealeau Sportsmen's Club, Small Business Association, Lion's Club, and Friends of Perrot. Nearly 160 individuals participated in those meetings.

In addition, individual meetings were held with the Trempealeau Village President, Town Chairman, Chairman of the Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors, the State Senator and Representative for the district, the President of the La Crosse Campers Association, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and the La Crosse Bowmen's Bicycle Group. Furthermore, a number of radio and television interviews were held covering the subjects applicable to the master plan.

A preliminary master plan review meeting using the nominal group process was held in the Village of Trempealeau on February 8, 1984. Over 150 citizens attended and voiced their concerns and interests about Perrot Park and its future. Their primary concern was associated with keeping two entry exit points to the park and keeping the Trempealeau Bay area open to hunting and trapping.



LOT 6
LOT 5
LOT 4
LOT 3
LOT 2
LOT 1

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to DNR (36 acres)

DNR to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (20 acres)

VILLAGE OF TREMPEALEAU

Great River Trail

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

REVISED 6/85 BY J. GARDNER PROJECT 9430

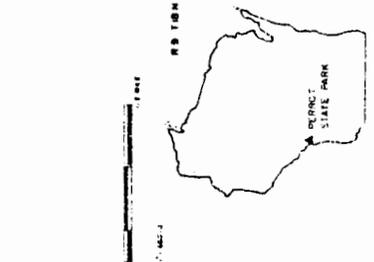
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

OWNERSHIP AND ACQUISITION MAP
PERROT STATE PARK

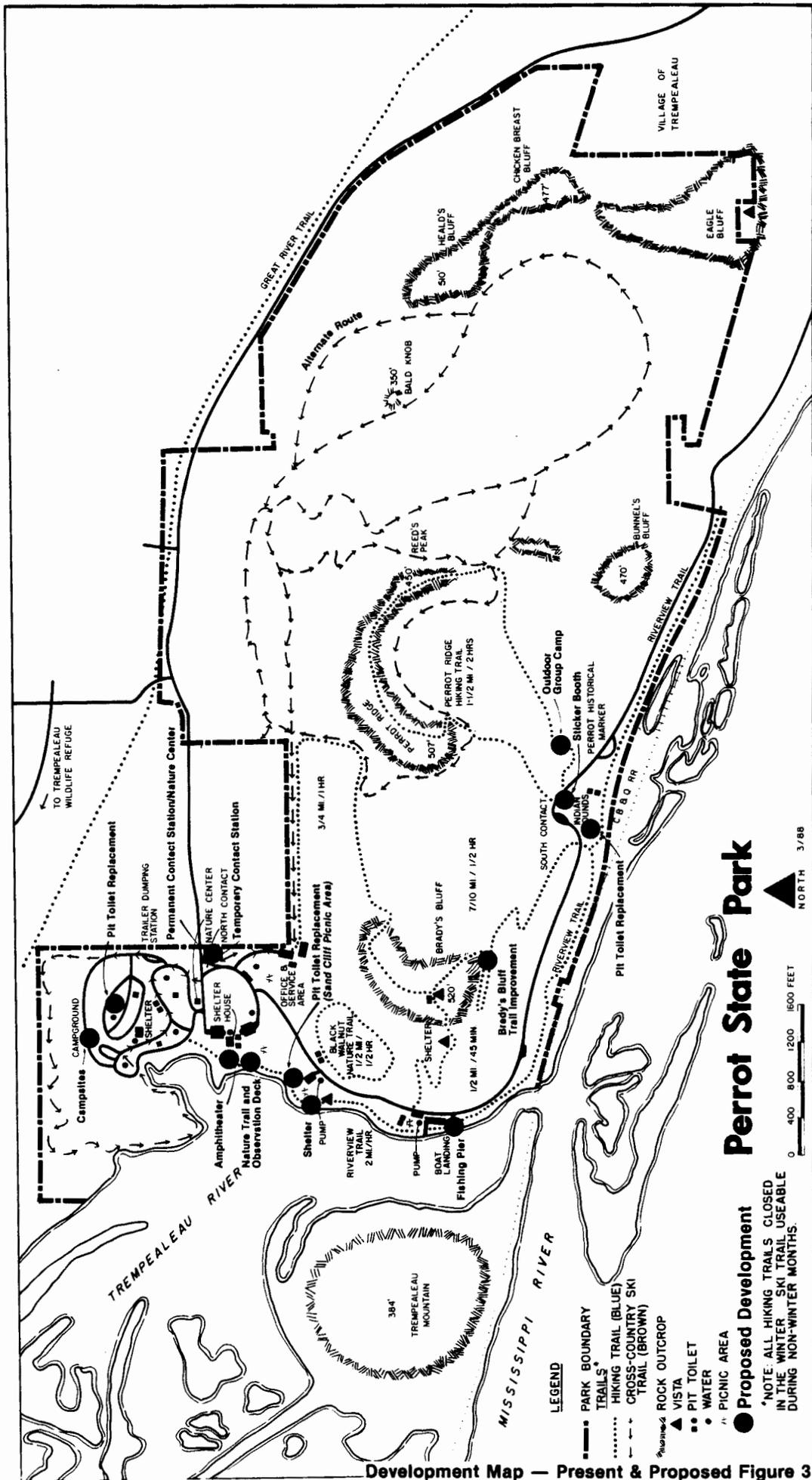
Approved by
March 27, 1985

Graphic Station
1-8-85

TRANSFER TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
STATE OWNERSHIP
CURRENT PARK BOUNDARY



Ownership Map Figure 2



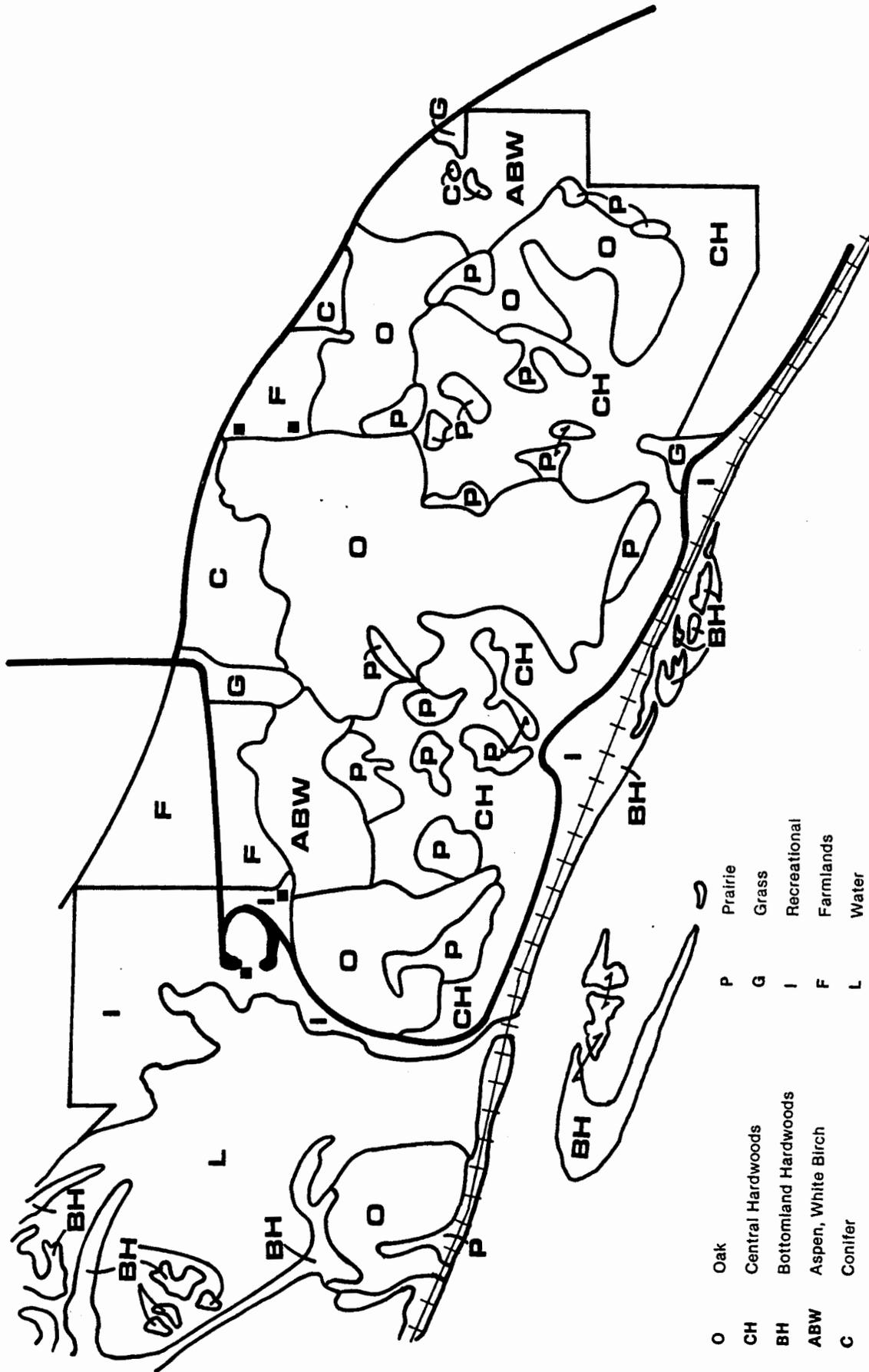
Perrot State Park

Proposed Development
 *NOTE: ALL HIKING TRAILS CLOSED IN THE WINTER. SKI TRAIL USEABLE DURING NON-WINTER MONTHS.

- LEGEND**
- PARK BOUNDARY
 - TRAILS
 - HIKING TRAIL (BLUE)
 - CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL (BROWN)
 - ROCK OUTCROP
 - ▲ VISTA
 - PIT TOILET
 - WATER
 - ▲ PICNIC AREA

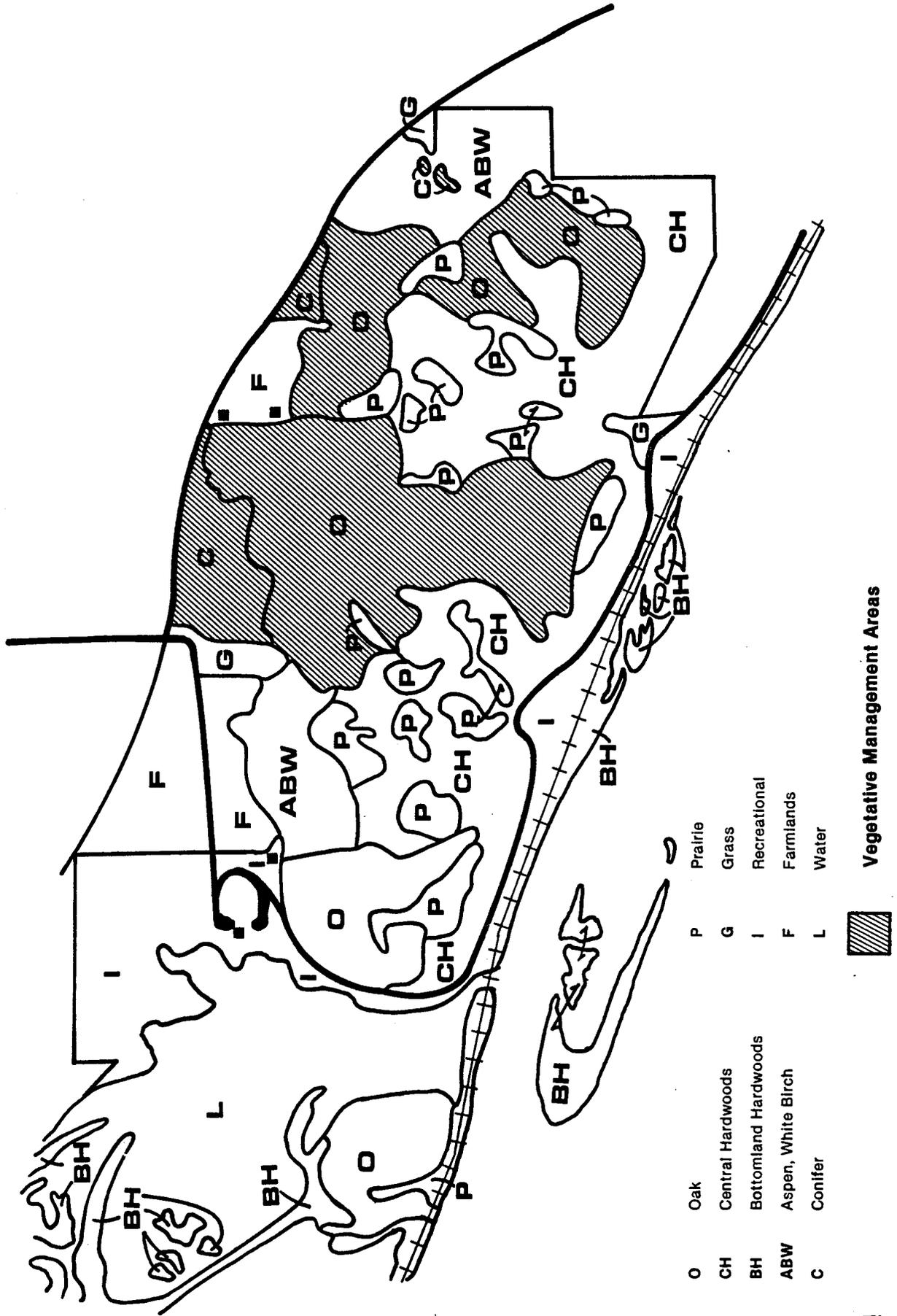


Development Map — Present & Proposed Figure 3



Vegetative Cover Map

Figure 4



Vegetative Management Potential Map

Figure 4A

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Location (Figure 1)

Perrot State Park is located within portions of section 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, and 29 of Trempealeau Township, Trempealeau County. The nearest town is the Village of Trempealeau, located just southeast of the property. The closest Wisconsin metropolitan area is La Crosse, approximately 25 miles south of the property. The property is also located within a two-hour drive of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Eau Claire, Black River Falls, Tomah, Red Wing, Rochester, and Winona, Minnesota. Primary access to the property is via Highway 93 and State Highway 35-54 (the Great River Road). Immediate access is via township and Department of Natural Resources roads.

2. History of the Area

The park is rich in archaeological and historical sites. Interest in preserving the lands for public good dates back to the beginning of the 20th century. Examples of such concerns include Dr. Eben Pierce, a Trempealeau resident, and an early advocate for the formation of the state park who wrote that, "these (Indian) mounds ... will be restored and its flora kept intact for future generations." Antoine Grignon, another early advocate, stated that, "this place should be preserved as a historical place and landmark." In fact, John Latsch, the donor of the original lands, requested that the park be named after an important historical figure, Nicholas Perrot.

The French fort and Perrot post sites represent a very important part of the historical records of the early fur trade and exploration of the region. In addition, there are 12 known prehistoric mound sites, which account for several dozen mounds. At least two Indian village sites also are located within the park boundaries, a consequence of a diverse natural habitats around the park, including the river, prairie, marsh, bluff and woodland. The village and mound sites were left by middle Woodland (Hopewell) and late Woodland (Effigy Mound and Oneota) cultures, some of them dating back over 2,000 years.

Three very unusual prehistoric petroglyph sites (rock carvings) demonstrate the sacred nature of Mount Trempealeau and the surrounding bluffs to Perrot's ancient inhabitants. Most of the other petroglyph sites in Wisconsin and Minnesota have already been destroyed by vandalism and modern development, and thus these remaining petro glyphs represent a very scarce resource in the region.

The history of Perrot Park tends to dramatize the early history of the white man in Wisconsin, a history that was for some time a mystery to those who settled and developed the state a little more than a century ago.

The rediscovery of Perrot began in the early 1880's when the State Historical Society of Wisconsin received an inquiry from the French Academy of History. The Academy asked for assistance in locating the winter headquarters of Nicholas Perrot, the 17th century French Canadian fur trader who was, it was reported, one of the first white men in the upper Mississippi valley. According to the Academy a map drawn in the 17th century roughly established Perrot's headquarters several miles north of the Black River on the Mississippi. Trempealeau residents, unaware of previous residency of white men in the area, responded to the inquiry and began to seek the site. It was, however, a work crew from the Chicago-Burlington and Northern Railroad who finally unearthed what appeared to be the remnants of fireplaces in the area indicated on the 200-year old French map. Amateur archaeologists followed them up with a thorough investigation. Ultimately, they unearthed the old walls of what must have been Perrot's headquarters, and then enough implements were uncovered, including a flint-locked pistol, to prove the location conclusively.

Perrot's residence in the area was, of course, a brief one. So, it was not surprising that his presence here was unknown to those who followed him some 150 years later. What is surprising is the extent of information that eventually came to light about his activities and which is available to park visitors today.

3. Chronology of Property's Establishment and Development

The park was established in 1918 as a scenic state park. Over 1,000 acres of land were purchased and donated to the State of Wisconsin to establish the park by Mr. John Latsch of Winona, Minnesota. As part of his donation, Mr. Latsch had one request, and that was that the park be named for Nicholas Perrot. Presently, the park encompasses 1,434.51 acres.

4. Past and Present Management Activities.

Since its inception, the property has been managed for camping, picnicking, hiking, nature study, fishing, scenic drive, and a variety of other related activities. Initially, swimming was also one of the activities enjoyed in the park; however, this recreational outlet was lost due to the siltation that occurred in Trempealeau Bay after construction of the dam. The Trempealeau Bay boat landing is used by anglers and duck hunters to access the Mississippi River above Lock and Dam 6. Recently, cross-country skiing and a nature interpretation program have been developed and will continue as funding permits.

Perrot has 198 acres of land devoted to intensive recreation. It has 22.7 acres of picnic-play area, 57 picnic tables, 28 grills, 1 shelter, 252 parking stalls, a .6 mile long self-guided nature trail, 6.2 miles of hiking trail, 1 trail shelter, 7 miles of cross-country ski trail, 96 campsites, 3 flush toilet buildings (2 of which have showers), 7.2 miles of road.

B. RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

1. Geology

Trempealeau County is unglaciated, but a glacial deposit of unpitted outwash is found along the Mississippi and Black Rivers. In the vicinity of Trempealeau County, the Mississippi River cut through the resistant lower magnesium limestone and became established in the weaker upper Cambrian sandstone. Streams tributary to the river have dissected the county. This has resulted in the disappearance of the protective cap of the Galena-Black River limestone, the removal of a large portion of the lower magnesium limestone, and the exposing of the Cambrian sandstone in the broad valleys. Only the highest ridges of the county are now capped by the lower magnesium limestone, and the geological formation is mainly upper Cambrian sandstone. Alleuvial silt, sand, and gravel are found in the valleys and this material reaches a maximum depth of 200 feet.

Four glacial advances occurred in the pleistocene Epoch and completely surrounded the southwestern part of Wisconsin. At that time, the Mississippi River was 200 feet below its present channel and 300 feet below the Trempealeau prairie. As the glaciers melted, outwash poured from them into the streams and began widening them and filling them with sediments. In the interglacial periods, the Mississippi had less water than it does now. Downcutting occurred and in the sediments from this time we find the remains of plant life such as peat and wood. The glacial outwash and resulting streams and rivers widened their channels with time and the divide between them was cut away north of Trempealeau. The old bed of the Mississippi probably filled with sediment and the water reverted to its present course. The result was a separation of the Trempealeau Mountain from both the Minnesota and Galesville bluffs giving it an isolated effect.

2. Soils

Soils within Perrot Park are made up of the Dickenson-Gothum-Sparta Association. The soils are excessively drained to well drained and have a subsoil of loamy sand to fine sandy loam over fine to coarse sand and are located on river terraces. This association consists of nearly level to moderately steep river terraces along the Mississippi and Black Rivers. Most of this association is nearly level or gently sloping. It is steeper, however, along sandy terrace escarpments on Trempealeau Mountain and on sandy dunes.

Dickenson soils in most places occupy that part of the terrace midway between the river and the uplands. The soils are well drained and nearly level to gently sloping. Gothum soils are located between the Dickenson soils and the Mississippi River. These soils are somewhat excessively drained and are nearly level to moderately steep.

Sparta soils generally are in areas nearer the Mississippi than Dickenson and Gothum soils. The soils are excessively drained and are nearly level to sloping.

The minor soils of this association are Denrock soils, wet subsoil variant; Denrock, Boone, Eleva, Port Byron, and Gail soils; and stony and rocky land and terrace escarpments.

Natural fertility is low in most of the soils in this association. Available water capacity is low in Dickenson, Gothum, and Sparta soils. The hazard for soil blowing is severe on Dickenson, Gothum, and Sparta soils.

3. Climate

Trempealeau County has an average annual precipitation of about 31 inches with the majority of it occurring during the growing season. February is the driest month and June is the wettest. The average annual runoff is probably about 10 inches as indicated by the average annual runoff for Black, Buffalo, and Trempealeau Rivers. The average growing season, defined as the number of days following the last 32° freeze in the spring to the first in the fall, ranges from about 130 days in the northern part of the county to 160 days in the southern part. The length of the frost-free period also depends on elevation with frost occurring sooner in the narrow valleys than on the higher ridges. Frost has been known as late as June 4 and as early as August. Freeze-up of shallow lakes normally takes place in late November, and ice cover remains until late March or early April.

4. Water Resources

Perrot State Park is bounded on the west and south by the Trempealeau River and Mississippi River respectively. Fish within these water bodies include largemouth bass, northern pike, crappies, bluegills, yellow perch, whitebass, walleye, catfish, bullheads, and sauger.

Winter fishing is often hindered by weak ice in Trempealeau Bay. In addition, dense aquatic vegetation limits the areas that can be fished during the summer months.

A list of fish and reptile species known to occur within the park boundary can be found in Appendix D. The list has been compiled from a netting survey conducted on the bay in March and April, 1975, by DNR and annual commercial fishing catch reports.

The soil types, combined with the geology, have an influence on the surface and groundwater conditions. In Trempealeau County, there are two groundwater provinces. These are the western area of rocks of

Paleozoic age and the valley alluvium. The valley alluvium is found along stream valleys containing sand and gravel aquifers and is of considerable importance along the Mississippi River because of its large size. An aquifer is a water bearing stratum of permeable rock, gravel, or sand. Valleys containing strata of sand and gravel as much as 200 feet thick, are the best aquifers in the state. The underlying sandstone is less permeable than the sands and gravels and is of secondary importance as aquifers.

5. Vegetative Cover (Figure 4)

At the time the white man began settling near Trempealeau, Perrot Park was covered by prairie. Scattered throughout the prairie were small oak openings and savannahs consisting mainly of burr oak. In stark contrast to the prairie was Trempealeau mountain, the only heavily wooded land in the area. Because it was surrounded by water, it escaped the annual fires that prevented tree species from establishing themselves on the prairie. It has also been reported that some of the river bottoms were forested. Elm, willow, and silver maple were probably the most common species. Presently, oak is the most predominant species. White oak, black oak, and burr oak are also included in the nearly pure red oak stands. The majority of these stands are large trees (15 inches in diameter and larger). There are small acreages of smaller timber (11-15 inches in diameter) as well as oak (5-11 inches in diameter). Some 15-inch diameter black walnut and hickory are also scattered throughout the area.

The understory consists of mainly of more shade tolerant species such as hickory, basswood, elm, and soft maple. A dense shrub layer of hazel, dogwood, and blackberry exists on the north facing slopes. This shrub layer is less dense to nonexistent on south slopes.

About 1/2 of the northern red oak is at or past the silviculture rotation age of 80-100 years and is deteriorating. Oak wilt disease is present in all stands and heavy in some.

The central hardwoods consist of saw timber-sized oak, shagbark and bitternut hickory, and basswood. A number of species make up the understory including the hickories, basswood, oak, elm, black cherry, black oak, hackberry, and ironwood. Regeneration consists largely of hickory and basswood. There are a number of scattered pure stands of aspen, white birch, and black locust. All are about one acre or less in size. The stands are in generally good condition. Dutch elm disease is present in all areas that contain elm, and there is some oak wilt disease.

The bottomland hardwoods are located along the base of Trempealeau mountain and within a portion of Trempealeau Bay. These stands are made up of large saw logs to pole-sized elm, silver maple, and cottonwood. Dutch elm disease is present in all stands. The aspen and white birch stands are pole timber size with a few of the white birch reaching sawtimber size. The aspen is generally overmature and in poor condition. The understory consists of the central hardwoods species.

The conifer stands are all plantations and consist of the three native Wisconsin pines: red, white, and jack pine, and a small area of scotch pine. Red pine makes up about 90% of the plantations. A majority of the plantations are about 35 years old and just entering a small saw log size class (9-15 inches in diameter). Most of them have had at least one thinning. All stands are healthy and in good condition except for the jack pine which is overmature.

The prairie type is made up largely of native prairie grasses including big and little bluestem, switchgrass, Indian grass, and side oats grama. The prairies are dotted with red cedar and are being encroached upon from the side by aspen, birch, locust, and sumac. Periodic burnings will be necessary to maintain this type.

Unique plant communities include the native prairie within the Brady's Bluff state natural area, and the native black walnut trees located in the western part of the park. These trees are somewhat unique to the area because of their large size and excellent quality. Trempealeau is slightly north of the natural range for good quality black walnut. The two acres of white pine located in the pine stand on the northern edge of the park are considered to be the most productive white pine in the area and probably in the state. In 1982, at the age of 36 years, this stand averaged 15 inches in diameter and had a height of 84 feet. The size index of the stand is estimated at 124.

Noteworthy prairie species include hairy umbrellawort, larkspur, and prairie satgrass, all species of the great plains here are at or near their northeastern range limit. The preliminary plant list (Appendix B) compiled by the Scientific Area Preservation Council contains more than 100 species for the prairie.

6. Wildlife

A wildlife species survey has been undertaken by the Department and is listed in Appendix C. Major species known to be present include white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit, a variety of squirrel, beaver, muskrat, fox, and raccoon. Birds include pied bill grebe, great blue heron, bittern, ducks, hawks, kestrels, and a variety of songbirds. In addition, a variety of turtles, snakes and frogs are found within the property.

Threatened species found on the property include the double crested cormorant, great egret, cooper's hawk, red shouldered hawk, wood turtle, and blanding's turtle. Endangered species include the osprey, bald eagle, common tern, and loggerhead shrike.

7. Site Inventory

A forest reconnaissance inventory has been completed for the property and includes the following:

<u>Cover Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Oak	425
Central Hardwoods	216
Bottomland hardwoods	69
Aspen, white birch	94
Pine	41
Prairie	164
Grass	10
Farmfield	103
General use-recreation areas	295
Water	30
Total	1,559 *

* The total acreage includes all land within the existing proposed boundary.

8. Land Use Potential (Figure 5)

Lands within the park are classified as intensive recreation development (IRD), extensive recreation area (ERA), scientific area (S), and wildlife area (RD₂). The intensive recreation development will encompass an estimated 225 acres upon completion of the proposed trails, group camp, and expansion of family campsites. Currently, 198 acres are identified as intensive recreation development. The extensive recreation area encompasses 942 acres, and the scientific area will encompass approximately 65 acres when expanded. The Trempealeau Bay area, and an island in the Mississippi River, which are to be transferred to wildlife (RD₂), encompasses 327 acres.

9. Historical and Archaeological Features

As indicated earlier, Perrot State Park was established in large part due to its overwhelming historical and archaeological significance. Please refer to the history of the area for more detailed information.

In view of these known historical and archaeological sites, the Historical Society recommends that prior to any ground disturbing activities within the park, the Department consult with their office to determine whether further archaeological testing is warranted. It is our intent to comply with their request to insure against the loss or destruction of these features. In addition, it is our intent to work with the Mississippi Valley Archaeological Center in assessing and summarizing the archaeological, cultural, and historical resources within Perrot Park. In order to safeguard these resources, that data will not be contained within this master plan document but will be recorded in the park office files.

C. MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

1. Roads and Inholdings

Two major management problems were previously identified and discussed in Section I under "Roads, Entrances, and Inholdings." As stated in that section, the dual entrance at Perrot causes inefficient operation and loss of sticker revenue. Two public contact points will be established to address this problem and reduce its impact.

The second problem involves the lack of development space for the north side park entrance visitor station-nature center complex. We will continue negotiations with the landowner and purchase the property when and if it becomes available. Until such time, we will have to operate out of a temporary facility.

2. Hunting and Trapping in Trempealeau Bay

Historically, hunting and trapping have occurred in Trempealeau Bay and continue to the present time. Rather than closing the Bay to hunting and trapping which would create a large-scale public outcry, it is proposed that the Bay, and an island within the Mississippi River, be transferred to wildlife management and classified as RD₂. This would allow for hunting and trapping in the Bay, and with proper signing eliminate any user conflict and maximize the recreation resource of the park and the backwaters along the Mississippi River and Trempealeau River. At such time as the Bay becomes totally filled and loses its water base, other than the river channel, use of that resource will be reevaluated and the option will be kept open to transfer the property back to park status.

3. No Swimming Area

There is no swimming facility within Perrot State Park. Years ago, park visitors utilized Trempealeau Bay for swimming. However, over time, the Bay has been lost as a swimming site due to siltation. In the late 1960's, an attempt was made to reestablish a beach on Trempealeau Bay west of the stone shelter. That project provided a swimming beach for two years and then the area once again filled in. Based on that experience, recreating a beach on Trempealeau Bay is not feasible.

Other options, including creating a dug pond, have been evaluated by a Department hydrologist. No satisfactory sites could be located within existing stateowned land. There is a public swimming pool in the Village of Trempealeau. Perhaps an agreement could be negotiated between the Department and the Village whereby park visitors could use the pool for a nominal charge.

D. RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION

Wisconsin's 1986-91 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Needs Assessment section sets priority ratings on various outdoor recreation activities to serve as an indicator of needs. For the Black River Falls area, which includes Trempealeau County, recreation activities pertaining to Perrot State Park and ranked as "high priority" are bicycling, camping, cross-country skiing, fishing, and walking/jogging.

The comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for Trempealeau County was last revised in 1978 and therefore is outdated for this master planning purpose.

Park use figures, facility condition, as well as stated and observed user desires, indicate that most of the existing facilities meet the present and anticipated user needs and demand.

E. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

1. No additional acquisition and no additional development.

This alternative would provide for no further acquisition and/or no further development. The Department would merely retain and manage the existing resource and its recreational facilities. This alternative is not desirable since the property was acquired for recreational purposes in order to meet the present and future needs of the recreating public. No additional development could lead to degradation of the resource, its facilities, and could lead to safety problems. No additional acquisition within the property boundary could lead to encroachment of undesirable land uses and result in insufficient land area for future proposed development.

2. Limited additional acquisition and development.

It is recommended that the property remain classified as a scenic state park. This would provide for a full complement of recreational facilities as well as the protection, conservation and interpretation of the natural environment, scientific areas, historical and archaeological sites. It is anticipated that use will increase approximately 25% during the ten-year period following the approval of the master plan and subsequent addition of new facilities.

Proposed park improvements include: upgrading existing campsite and adding approximately 50 family campsites as needed, developing a 100-person capacity group camp, and rejuvenating day-use facilities. Items contained in this latter category include: updating and expanding picnic areas, constructing additional shelters, developing more cross-country ski trails, upgrading all existing trail and providing a handicapped accessible nature trail and wildlife observation deck. Shoreline erosion control, providing a park concession (within the existing stone shelter), replacing hand pumps and pit toilet facilities as needed, and general landscape planting and site work will also be undertaken.

Park operations will be made more efficient by the construction of a park entrance visitor station on the north entry and construction of a seasonal sticker booth on the south entry. The park road will be resurfaced and sealcoated as necessary to provide better transportation within the park proper. The north park road may include a bike lane from the Great River Trail to the main park use area.

Nature interpretation and education will be stressed on the property and, therefore, facilities such as the nature center, amphitheater, self-guided nature trails and observation decks will be constructed. It is proposed that the nature center be constructed in combination with the proposed park entrance visitor station located on the north entry point. Individual interpretive displays will be placed near the Indian mounds, and at the historical and archaeological sites as deemed appropriate.

Vegetative management will include prairie maintenance, landscape planting in the intensive use areas, and extensive area vegetative management including such things as pruning and thinning pine plantations. Miscellaneous actions will include erosion control and minor renovation and replacement of existing day-use area facilities.

Snowmobile trails were phased out in 1984 and no new trails are proposed in this plan. All snowmobile traffic will be directed to the new Great River Trail which abuts the north and east sections of the property.

Proposed limited acquisition will protect fragile natural features, prevent encroachment, and provide the necessary land area needed for future development proposals.

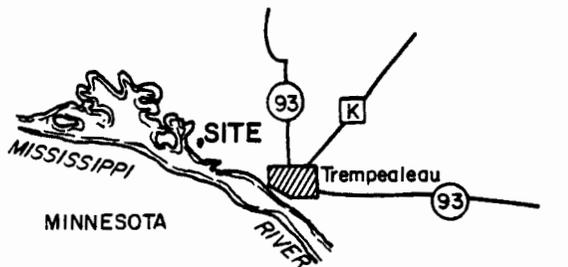
3. Additional large-scale development.

Large-scale development, including enlarging the campground, day use facilities, and trail system, is possible. However, based on present and projected use figures, such action is not warranted at this time.

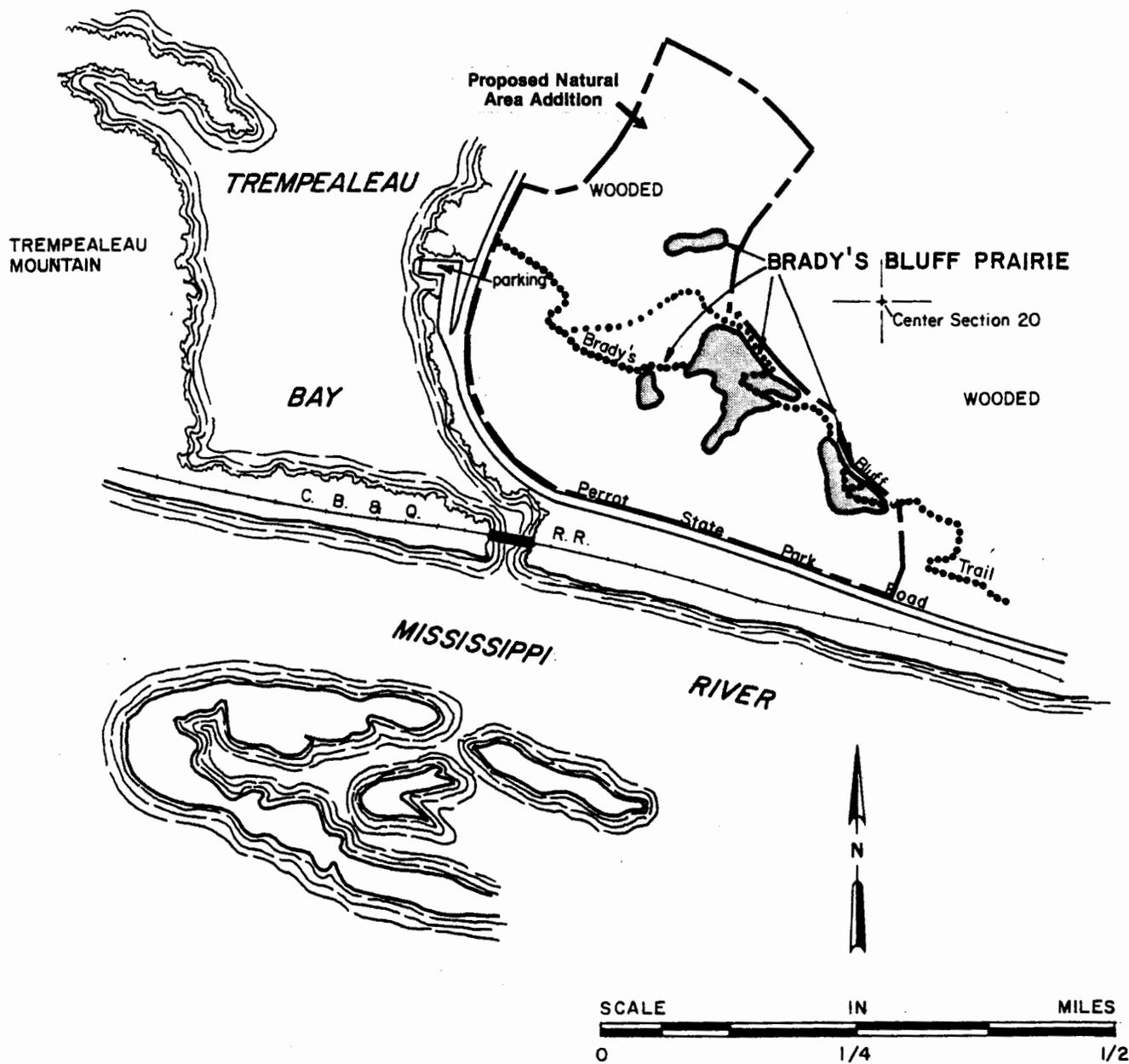
4. Development of a single-entrance park.

Since its inception, the park has had a through-road policy whereby visitors could enter and leave from the south or from the north. This situation has caused difficulty with sticker sales and subsequent revenue collection as no visitor contact station is located on the road system. A park entrance visitor station is needed to provide better public service to the park visitor, increase revenue collection efficiency, increase efficient use of park personnel, increase park security, as well as to meet the recommendations as outlined in the legislative audit report of 1983. However, the alternative of developing a single entrance park does not appear feasible due to strong local opposition.

BRADY'S BLUFF PRAIRIE SCIENTIFIC AREA



LOCATION MAP, TREMPEALEAU COUNTY



Appendix A

SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA REPORT
Wisconsin Scientific Areas Preservation Council

NAME OF AREA Brady's Bluff Prairie Latest INSPECTION DATE 18 November 1977

QUARTER NW COUNTY Trempealeau TWP. 18N RANGE 9W SECTIONS 20

BOUNDARIES AND ACREAGE of Scientific zone includes the isolated prairie remnants within
proposed or established area and buffer: the S 10 acres of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the N 30 acres of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 20
and encompasses 10 acres m.o.l.

ACCESS TO AREA: Area located in southern Trempealeau County about 24 miles northwest of
La Crosse. From La Crosse, follow STH 53-35 north, then STH 93 west into
Trempealeau, then follow state park signs into Perrot State Park. Access
via Brady's Bluff hiking trail.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA: Outstanding features, primary and secondary biotic communities, dominants, understory and rare species, topography, soils geology and archeology.

Brady's Bluff Prairie scientific area is an exceedingly steep, southwest-facing, dry prairie situated on a Mississippi River bluff. Brady's Bluff, which rises about 460 feet above the river, is composed of Prairie du Chien dolomite (Ordovician age) cap rock over several layers of Cambrian sandstones. Common prairie species on the dry prairie include big bluestem, little bluestem, silky aster, side-oats grama, hairy grama, rough blazing star, prairie satin grass (*Muhlenbergia cuspidata*), switch grass, prairie clovers, needle grass, stiff goldenrod, Indian grass, and northern dropseed. Noteworthy prairie species include hairy umbrellawort (*Oxybaphus hirsutus*), larkspur (*Delphinium virescens*), and prairie satin grass, all species of the Great Plains here at or near their northeastern range limit. The preliminary plant species list (SAPC files) contains more than 100 species for the prairie. The prairie receives use from groups and guided tours (several hundred yearly), by hikers on Brady's Bluff trail (several thousand yearly), from the University of Wisconsin La Crosse (ornithology, botany, zoology), UW Madison (ecology, taxonomy), Lawrence University, and local elementary classes. Bull snakes and milk snakes occur on the prairie as do timber rattlesnakes, which are infrequent. The scientific area is listed in Curtis' book *Vegetation of Wisconsin* as containing examples of dry prairie and cedar glade communities. Due to the use of fire, which has killed many red cedars, and the increasing density of woody vegetation on the prairie periphery, the cedar glade has been apparently greatly modified.

HISTORY OF LAND USE AND LIMITING FACTORS:

Although some of the prairie openings in the park were used for agricultural purposes prior to
state acquisition, the scientific area was too steep and remains undisturbed. The steep
topography protects the prairie from overuse, but trail erosion is a problem.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION: Landowner and administrator, existing and proposed management, degree of scientific, educational and recreational use of area, adjacent lands and compatibility.

Within the approximately 1400 acre Perrot State Park managed by the Department of Natural
Resources. Contact Park Superintendent, Perrot State Park, Trempealeau, Wis. 54661. Management
burns were conducted in 1972 and 1976, and hand removal of encroaching woody vegetation is
highly desirable to maintain the extent of the prairie.

Notify park manager of intended educational use of the prairie so that accurate records of
use can be compiled.

REFERENCE INFORMATION: Person recommending area, references, quadrangle and other publications and date of action taken toward designation of area.

Recommended by John T. Curtis and established as scientific area number 9 in November 1952.
See USGS Topographic map, Trempealeau 7.5' Quadrangle (1973); preliminary plant species list
in SAPC files. Prairie utilized by Orlin Anderson and cited in his 1954 Ph. D. Thesis
completed at the University of Wisconsin "Phytosociology of dry lime prairies in Wisconsin."

REPORT BY: rev. William Tans DATE: November 1977

APPENDIX B

FLORA identified by Park Naturalist, Perrot State Park, May-November, 1977.

A. FORBS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Spiderwort Family Spiderwort	<u>Tradescantia ohiensis</u>
Calla Family Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<u>Arisaema triphyllum</u>
Lily Family Large Trillium Solomon's Seal Solomon's plume Asparagus Bellwort	<u>Trillium grandiflorum</u> <u>Polygonatum biflerum</u> <u>Smilacina racemosa</u> <u>Asparagus officinallis</u> <u>Uvalaria grandiflora</u>
Iris Family Blue-Eyed Grass	<u>Sieyrinchium campestra</u>
Mustard Family Hoary alyssum Shepherd's Purse	<u>Berteroa incana</u> <u>Capsella bursa-pastoria</u>
Barberry Family Blue cohosh	<u>Caulophyllum thalictroides</u>
Poppy Family Bloodroot	<u>Sanguinaria canadensis</u>
Pink Family White campion	<u>Silene cucubalas</u>
Milkweed Family Butterflyweed Marsh milkweed Milkweed	<u>Asclepias tuberosa</u> <u>Asclepias incarnata</u> <u>Asclepias syriaca</u>
Purslane Family Purslane	<u>Portulaca oleracea</u>
Buttercup Family Columbine Larkspur Rue Anemone Canada Anemone	<u>Aquilegia canadensis</u> <u>Delphinium tricorne</u> <u>Anemonilla thaictroides</u> <u>Anemone canadensis</u>

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Rose Family	
Wild rose	<u>Rosa carolina</u>
Strawberry	<u>Fragaria virginiana</u>
Cinquefoil	<u>Potentilla norvegica</u>
Agrimony	<u>Agrimonia gryposepala</u>
Wood-Sorrel Family	
Yellow wood-sorrel	<u>Oxalis stricta</u>
Geranium Family	
Wild Geranium	<u>Geranium maculatum</u>
Mallow Family	
Flower-of-an-hour	<u>Hibiscus trionum</u>
Chesses	<u>Malva neglecta</u>
Bean Family	
Wild Indigo	<u>Baptisa leucantha</u>
Yellow wild indigo	<u>B. tinctoria</u>
Tick-Trefoil	<u>Desmodium glutinosum</u>
Purple prairie clover	<u>Petalostemum purpureum</u>
Leadplant	<u>Amorpha canescene</u>
Creeping bush-clover	<u>Lespedeza virginica</u>
Hog peanut	<u>Amphicarpa bracteata</u>
Senna Family	
Partridge pea	<u>Cassia fasciculata</u>
Violet Family	
Yellow violet	<u>Viola pubescens</u>
Jewelweed Family	
Spotted Jewelweed	<u>Impatiens biflora</u>
Parsley family	
Rattlesnake master	<u>Eryngium yuccifolium</u>
Queen Anne's lace	<u>Daucus carota</u>
Ginseng Family	
Ginseng	<u>Panax quinquefolium</u>
Buckthorn Family	
New Jersey tea	<u>Ceanothus americanus</u>
Smartweed Family	
Smartweed	<u>Polygonum coccineum</u>
Pinkweed	<u>P. pennsylvanica</u>
Nettle Family	
Pellitory	<u>Parietaria pennsylvanica</u>
Stinging Nettle	<u>Urtica dioica</u>
False Nettle	<u>Boehmeria cylindrica</u>
Wood nettle	<u>Laportea canadensis</u>

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Spurge Family Flowering Spurge Leafy spurge	<u>Euphorbia corollata</u> <u>E. esula</u>
Mulberry Family Hemp	<u>Cannabis satira</u>
Bluebell Family Harebell	<u>Campanula rotundiflora</u>
Sumac Family Poison ivy	<u>Rhus radicans</u>
Bedstraw Family Bedstraw	<u>Galium concinnum</u>
Evening Primrose Family Enchanter's nightshade Evening Primrose	<u>Circaea quadrisulcata</u> <u>Oenothera biennis</u>
Birthwort Family Wild Ginger	<u>Asarum canadense</u>
Phlox Family Wild blue phlox	<u>Phlox divaricata</u>
Verbena Family Hoary Vervain Blue vervain White vervain	<u>Verbena stricta</u> <u>V. hastata</u> <u>V. urticifolia</u>
Primrose Family Shooting Star	<u>Dodecatheon meadia</u>
Borage Family Hoary puccoon	<u>Lithospermum canescens</u>
Plantain Family Plantain	<u>Plantago rugelii</u>
Dogbane Family Dogbane	<u>Apocynum androsaemifolium</u>
Tomato Family Horse nettle	<u>Solanum carolinense</u>
Morning Glory Family Field bindweed	<u>Convolvulus arvensis</u>
Mint Family Germander Heal all Catnip Bergamot	<u>Teucrium canadense</u> <u>Prunella vulgaris</u> <u>Nepeta cataria</u> <u>Monarda fistulosa</u>

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Lopseed Family Lopseed	<u>Phryma leptostachya</u>
Snapdragon Family Mullein Culver's root Butter and eggs	<u>Verbascum thapsus</u> <u>Veronicastrum virginicum</u> <u>Linaria vulgaris</u>
Daisy Family	-Dandelion Tribe-
Dandelion	<u>Taraxacum officinale</u>
Meadow goats' beard	<u>Tragopogon dubius</u>
Orange hawkweed	<u>Heiracium aurantiscum</u>
	-Thistle-like Tribe-
Field thistle	<u>Cirsium discolor</u>
Blazing Star	<u>Liatris aspera</u>
White snakeroot	<u>Eupatorium rugosum</u>
Boneset	<u>Eupatorium perfoliatum</u>
Burdock	<u>Arctium minus</u>
	-Daisy Tribe-
Chamomile	<u>Anthemis cotula</u>
Yarrow	<u>Achilles millefolium</u>
Wormwood	<u>A. campestris</u>
	-Sunflower Tribe-
Ragweed	<u>Amrosia arteisiifolia</u>
Coneflower	<u>Ratibida pinnata</u>
Black-eyed Susan	<u>Rudbeckia laciniata</u>
	-Aster-like Tribe-
Daisy fleabane	<u>Erigeron strigosus</u>
Horseweed	<u>Conyza canadensis</u>
Asters	<u>Aster</u>
Stiff goldenrod	<u>Solidage rigida</u>
Zig-zag goldenrod	<u>A. Flexecaulis</u>
Goldenrods	<u>S.</u>

B. TREES, SHRUBS, AND VINES

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
White pine	<u>Pinus Strobus</u>
Red pine	<u>Pinus resinosa</u>
Jack pine	<u>Pinus banksiana</u>
Scotch pine	<u>Pinus sylvestris</u>
Red cedar	<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>
Norway spruce	<u>Picia</u>
White spruce	<u>Picia glauca</u>

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
White oak	<u>Quercus alba</u>
Bur oak	<u>Quercus macrocarpa</u>
Black oak	<u>Quercus velutina</u>
Northern red oak	<u>Quercus borealis</u>
Bitternut hickory	<u>Carya cordiformis</u>
Shagbark hickory	<u>Carya ovata</u>
Black walnut	<u>Juglans nigra</u>
Butternut	<u>Juglans cinera</u>
Hazelnut	<u>Corybus ameriana</u>
Kentucky coffeetree	<u>Gymnocladus dioica</u>
River birch	<u>Betula nigra</u>
Paper birch	<u>Betula papyrifera</u>
Hophorbeam	<u>Ostrya virginiana</u>
Quaking aspen	<u>Populus tremuloides</u>
Eastern cottonwood	<u>Populus deltoides</u>
Willows	<u>Salix deltoides</u>
Bigtooth aspen	<u>Populus grandidentata</u>
Green ash	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>
White ash	<u>Fraxinus americana</u>
Basswood	<u>Tilia americana</u>
American elm	<u>Ulmus americana</u>
Shippery elm	<u>Ulmus alata</u>
Hackberry	<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>
Mountain ash	<u>Sorbis americana</u>
Serviceberry	<u>Amelanchier canadensis</u>
Catalpa	<u>Catalpa speciosa</u>
Silver maple	<u>Acer saccharinum</u>
Sugar maple	<u>Acer saccharum</u>
Red maple	<u>Acer rubrum</u>
Staghorn sumac	<u>Rhus typhinum</u>
Smooth sumac	<u>Rhus glabra</u>
Dogwoods	<u>Cornus glabra</u>
Black cherry	<u>Prunus serotina</u>
Choke cherry	<u>Prunus virginiana</u>
Wild plum	<u>Prunus americana</u>
Mulberry	<u>Morus americana</u>
Black raspberry	<u>Rubus flagellaris</u>
Blackberry	<u>Rubus idaeus</u>
Gooseberry	<u>Ribes</u>
Bittersweet	<u>Celastrus</u>
Wild grape	
Woodbine (also known as five-leafed ivy or Virginia creeper)	

C. GRASSES

climate derivation		
Native-Big bluestem	- warm	Toothbrushgrass
Little bluestem	- warm	Bottlebrushgrass
Sideoats grama	- warm	Mat sandbur
Canada wildrye	- cold	
Switchgrass	- warm	Introduced -
Indian grass	- warm	Timothy grass
Prairie dropseed		Kentucky bluegrass - cold
Meuhleggrass		

APPENDIX C

List of Fauna

Birds

Name

Breeding: (*also wintering)

Pied-bill Grebe
 Double-crested Cormorant (T)
 Great Blue Heron
 Green Heron
 Great Egret (T)
 Black-crowned Night Heron
 American Bittern
 Least Bittern
 *Mallard
 Blue-winged Teal
 Wood Duck
 Hooded Merganser
 Turkey Vulture
 Cooper's Hawk (T)
 *Sharp-shinned Hawk
 *Marsh Hawk
 *Red-tailed Hawk
 Red shouldered Hawk (T)
 Broad-winged Hawk
 American Kestrel
 *Ruffed Grouse
 *Bob-white
 *Ring-necked Pheasant
 Sora Rail
 American Coot
 Killdeer
 American Woodcock
 Common Snipe
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Black Tern
 *Mourning Dove
 *Rock Dove
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 *Screech Owl
 *Great Horned Owl
 *Barred Owl
 *Saw-whet Owl
 Whip-poor-will
 Common Nighthawk
 Chimney Swift

Migrating:

*Canada Goose
 Osprey (E)
 *Red-bellied Woodpecker
 *Red-headed Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 *Pileated Woodpecker
 *Hairy Woodpecker
 *Downy Woodpecker
 *Starling
 Eastern Kingbird
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Eastern Pheobe
 Traill's Flycatcher
 Easter Wood Pewee
 *Horned Lark
 Tree Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Rough-winged Swallow
 Purple Martin
 *Blue Jay
 *Common Crow
 *Black-capped Chickadee
 *Tufted Titmouse
 *White-breasted Nuthatch
 House Wren
 Long-billed Marsh Wren
 Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 Robin
 Wood Thrush
 Verry
 Eastern Bluebird
 *Cedar Waxwing
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Black and White Warbler
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Yellowthroat
 American Redstart
 Parula Warbler

(T) Threatened species

(E) Endangered species

Breeding: (*also wintering)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 *Belted kingfisher
 *Yellow-shafted flicker
 Cerulean Warbler
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Brown Headed Cowbird
 Baltimore Oriole
 Scarlet Tanager
 *Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 *American Goldfinch
 Dickcissel
 Rufus-sided Towhee
 Indigo Bunting
 Swamp Sparrow
 *Song Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 *House Sparrow

Wintering Only:

Common Goldeneye
 Common Merganser
 Goshawk
 Rough-legged Hawk
 Bald Eagle (E)
 Golden Eagle
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Evening Grosbeak
 Purple Finch
 Common Redpoll
 Pine Grosbeak
 Slate Colored Junco
 Tree Sparrow
 Black Duck

Reptiles and Amphibians

Wood Turtle (T)
 Snapping Turtle
 Map Turtle
 False Map Turtle

(T) Threatened species
 (E) Endangered species

Migrating

Pine Warbler
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Ovenbird
 Canvasback
 Bufflehead
 Semi-palmated Plover
 Redhead
 Ring-necked Duck
 Ruddy Duck
 Lesser Scaup
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Least Sandpiper
 Semi-palmated Sandpiper
 Herring Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Common Tern (E)
 Hermit Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Solitary Vireo
 Tennessee Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Myrtle Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Canada Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Northern Waterthrush
 White-throated Sparrow
 Loggerhead Shrike (E)
 Whistling Swan
 Snow Goose
 Blue goose
 Gadwall
 Green-winged teal
 American Widgeon
 Shoveler
 Nashville Warbler

Abundance

Occasional
 Common
 Common
 Common

Reptiles and AmphibiansAbundance

Painted Turtle	Common
Blandings Turtle (T)	Common
Smooth Softshell	Common
Spiny Softshell	Common
Six Lined Racerunner	Occasional
Northern Water Snake	Common
Eastern Garter Snake	Abundant
Eastern Hognose Snake	Occasional
Blue Racer	Common
Fox Snake	Occasional
Black Rat Snake	Occasional
Bullsnake	Common
Eastern Milk Snake	Occasional
Massasauga Rattlesnake (E)	Occasional
Timber Rattlesnake	Occasional
Mudpuppy	Occasional
Eastern Tiger Salamander	Common
American Toad	Common
Spring Peeper	Abundant
Gray Treefrog	Common
Western Chorus Frog	Common
Green Frog	Common
Leopard Frog	Common
Pickerel Frog	Common

Mammals

Woodchuck	Common
Eastern Gray Squirrel	Common
Eastern Fox Squirrel	Common
Southern Flying Squirrel	Common
Thirteen-lines Ground Squirrel	Common
Franklin Ground Squirrel	Occasional
Plains Pocket Gopher	Occasional
Beaver	Common
Deer Mouse	Common
White Footed Mouse	Common
Southern Bog Lemming	Occasional
Meadow Vole	Common
Prairie Vole	Common
Pine Vole	Occasional
Muskrat	Common
Norway Rat	Common
Meadow Jumping Mouse	Common
Coyote	Occasional
Red Fox	Common
Gray Fox	Common
Raccoon	Common
Shorttail Weasel	Occasional
Longtail Weasel	Occasional
Least Weasel	Occasional
Mink	Common
Striped Skunk	Common

(T) Threatened species

(E) Endangered species

MammalsAbundance

River Otter	Occasional
Badger	Occasional
Virginia Opossum	Common
Masked Shrew	Common
Shorttail shrew	Common
Eastern Mole	Common
Little Brown Bat	Common
Georgian Bat	Occasional
Long-eared Bat	Occasional
Big Brown Bat	Common
Red Bat	Common
Eastern Cottontail	Common
Whitetail Deer	Common

APPENDIX D

List of Fish Species

White crappie
Black crappie
Pumpkinseed sunfish
Bluegill
Black bullhead
Yellow bullhead
Yellow perch
Rock bass
White bass
Warmouth bass
Northern pike
Carp
White sucker
Largemouth bass
Mooneye
Bigmouth buffalo
Shortnose gar

Bowfin (dogfish)
Spotted sucker
Redhorse sp.
Brook silverside
Golden shiner
Pirate perch
Silver lamprey
Mad Tom sp.
Central mudminnow
River shiner
Sauger
Channel Catfish
Freshwater drum (sheephead)

MRT171



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Carroll D. Besahn,
Secretary

BOX 7921

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707

IN REPLY REFER TO: 2100

January 7, 1986

Mr. David Weizenicker
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Department of Natural Resources

Dear Dave:

We have completed our review of the Perrot State Park Concept Master Plan and generally support the projects goals, objectives and proposed management.

The prairie restoration detailed in the plan provides an excellent demonstration of the department's concern for preservation of native vegetation. However, the vegetation management proposed on page 4, especially the oak management and firewood cutting, seems to conflict with maintenance of natural conditions and allowing natural processes to determine the plant community, within the extensive recreation areas of the park.

Natural area inventories have identified the bluffs and slopes West of Brady's Bluff as areas of state significance with interesting cliff vegetation and hardwood forest. We are recommending that this area identified by Bureau of Endangered Resources inventories be added to the present Brady's Bluff Scientific Area, (state natural area) expanding the designation to about 60 acres.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this master plan.

Cordially,

Forest Stearns
Forest Stearns
Chairman

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: January 20, 1988

File Ref: 2100-1

To: Paul Matthiae-ER/4

From: D. L. Weizenicker-PR/4 

Subject: SAPC Comments of Perrot State Park Master Plan

This is in response to the Council's comments on the Perrot State Park Master Plan.

Comment #1

The prairie restoration detailed in the plan provides an excellent demonstration of the Department's concern for preservation of native vegetation. However, the vegetation management proposed on page 4, especially the oak management and firewood cutting, seems to conflict with maintenance of natural conditions and allowing natural processes to determine the plant community, within the extensive recreation areas of the park.

Department Response:

According to the forest reconnaissance inventory there are 425 acres of oak stands at Perrot. The consensus of the master plan task force was that 310 acres of oak in the extensive recreation area be perpetuated and maintained in a healthy, vigorous condition. The area chosen for management by selective cutting is largely visible from local roads, and contains an extensive network of trails. Another consideration was that oak is also an important food source for wildlife. As the remaining 115 acres of oak convert to maple/basswood, the park will continue to support a diversity of vegetative types and wildlife. The nature interpretive potential of the park will also be enhanced.

At the present, firewood sales open to the general public are closely controlled and limited to readily accessible areas within the park. There would be no change in this procedure.

Comment #2

Natural area inventories have identified the bluffs and slopes west of Brady's Bluff as areas of state significance with interesting cliff vegetation and hardwood forest. We are recommending that this area identified by Bureau of Endangered Resources inventories be added to the present Brady's Bluff Scientific Area, (state natural area) expanding the designation to about 60 acres.

To: Paul Matthiae-ER/4, January 20, 1988

2

Department Response:

At the request of the Bureau of Endangered Resources, the master plan recommends that the Brady's Bluff Prairie Natural Area be expanded to include an area of shaded sandstone cliffs and an interesting variety of vegetation. The expanded natural area will now contain about 65 acres.

We thank the Council for reviewing the Perrot State Park Master Plan.

DLW:DJK:bu
M1514

cc: J. Treichel-PR/4
D. Kulhaneck -PR/4 ←
J. Lissack-Eau Claire

District or Bureau: West Central
Docket Number: _____
Type List Designation(s):
NR 150.03(2)(d)(4)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Applicant: State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources
Title of Proposal: Perrot State Park Master Plan/Conceptual Element
Location: Trempealeau County including portions of Sections 17,
19, 20, 21; 22, 28, and 29
T18N, Range 9W
Political Town: Trempealeau

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. General Description (brief overview)

This environmental assessment discusses the provisions of the 1985 conceptual master plan prepared by DNR for Perrot State Park. The plan identifies Perrot as a scenic state park. The management and development alternatives selected for the property allow for moderate increased use and development. It is anticipated that use will increase approximately 25% during the next 10-year period. A wide range of traditional activities are offered including camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking, nature study, and related day-use activities.

The master plan identifies the proposed development, management, and land acquisition scheduled for the park.

Development

Proposed park improvements include: upgrading existing campsites and adding approximately 50 campsites when needed, developing a 100-person capacity group camp, and rejuvenating the day-use facilities. Items contained in this latter category include: renovating picnic areas, constructing additional shelters, developing four additional miles of cross-country ski trails, upgrading existing trails, and providing a handicapped accessible nature trail with wildlife observation deck and an accessible fishing pier. Shoreline erosion control, providing a park concession (within the existing stone shelter), replacing hand pumps and pit toilet facilities as needed, and general landscape planting and site work will also be undertaken.

A park entrance visitor station (PEVS) will be constructed at the north end entry road, and a sticker booth will be constructed at the south end entry road. Park roads will be resurfaced and sealcoated as needed, and when redeveloped, the north end entrance road will include a road shoulder bike lane which connects with the Great River Trail end located adjacent to the park's north boundary.

Nature interpretation and education will be stressed on the property and therefore, facilities such as a nature center, amphitheater, self-guided nature trails, and observation decks will be constructed. It is proposed that the nature center be constructed in combination with the permanent park entrance visitor station to be located at the north entry. Individual interpretive displays will be placed at various Indian mounds, historical and archaeological sites.

Vegetative management will include prairie maintenance, landscape planting in intensive use areas, and extensive area vegetative management including such things as pruning and thinning pine plantations and limited oak cutting to perpetuate that type near intensive use areas. Erosion control and minor renovation and replacement of existing day use facilities will also occur.

Management

Park management is the responsibility of the Perrot Work Unit manager. There is a park staff consisting of three full-time employees including the work unit supervisor/park manager, park superintendent II, and park ranger II positions. In addition, approximately 4,000 hours of limited term employee (LTE) labor is provided during the primary park use season (May to September). The LTE work includes clerical, maintenance, park patrol, and naturalist duties. It is proposed that some of these LTE hours be converted to a 6-month seasonal position for the natural resource patrol officer naturalist position. Additional LTE hours will be needed to operate the sticker booth associated with the two entrance public contact system. Increased sticker sale revenue should exceed LTE salary expenditures to operate this facility.

As a unit of the Wisconsin State Park system, Perrot has been developed and managed under chapter 27, laws of Wisconsin; specifically, section 27.01, which governs state parks. The property is also managed under the provisions of Wisconsin Administrative Code 45, which contains rules of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources pertaining to the conduct of visitors at state parks, state forests, and other properties under jurisdiction of the Department.

Lands within the park are classified as intensive recreation development (IRD), extensive recreation area (ERA), scientific area (S), and wildlife area (RD₂). The intensive recreation development will encompass an estimated 225 acres upon completion of the proposed trails, group camp, and expansion of family campsites. Currently, 198 acres are identified as intensive recreation development. The extensive recreation area encompasses 1,182 acres, and the scientific area encompasses

approximately 10 acres. The Trempealeau Bay area and the island in the Mississippi River, which are to be transferred to wildlife (RD₂) encompass 327 acres. The scientific area council has been contacted and they have not identified any further sites for inclusion in or enlargement of the scientific area.

Land Control

As of March, 1985, state ownership was 1,434.51 acres. It is recommended that the current boundary be modified to exclude 295 acres within Trempealeau Bay and a 32-acre island located in the Mississippi River. This land would be transferred to Wildlife Management. As a result, the acreage goal of 1,559.25 acres would be decreased by 327 acres for a new acreage goal of 1,232.25 acres. Present park ownership would also be reduced when the lands are transferred to Wildlife management.

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

The park was established in 1918 as a scenic state park. Over 1,000 acres of land was purchased and donated to the State of Wisconsin to establish the park by Mr. John Latch of Winona, Minnesota. As part of his donation, Mr. Latch requested that the park be named for Nicolas Perrot.

Since its inception, the property has been managed for camping, picnicking, hiking, nature study, fishing, scenic drive, and a variety of other related activities. In the past, swimming was also one of the activities enjoyed in the park; however, this recreational activity was lost due to the siltation that occurred in Trempealeau Bay after construction of lock & dam #6. The Trempealeau Bay boat landing is used by fishermen and duck hunters to gain access to the Trempealeau and Mississippi Rivers. Most recently, cross-country skiing and nature interpretation programs have been developed and will continue as funding permits. The property is now the work unit headquarters for four state properties: Perrot Park, Great River Trail, Merrick State Park, and the Buffalo River Trail.

The master plan narrative is being prepared in accord with Natural Resources Board and Department policy. The primary purpose of master plan is to guide the development, operations and maintenance of the property for the next ten years in order to provide recreational facilities which will accommodate approximately 250,000 annual visitations for day use and 30,000 camper days.

The 1981 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for region VII, which includes Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, Vernon, and Crawford Counties notes that there is a need for developed campsites, primitive campsites, and pleasure walking trails. The study further indicates that there is no need for additional cross-country ski trails and snowmobile trails. At the present time, campsite occupancy figures at Perrot are not high enough to justify campground expansion. However, based on other conditions, this is subject to change. The picnic area is sufficient to meet demand based on annual visitation figures. According to stated user desires, people who cross-country ski at Perrot State Park would like additional miles of trail to provide a full day's outing. For that reason, it is proposed that four additional miles of ski trails be added and improvement of existing 7 miles of trails be undertaken. Park use figures, facility condition, and stated user desires, indicate that most of the existing facilities meet present and anticipated user needs and demand. Admission sticker fees will be collected from skiers.

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

Section 27.01 of Wisconsin State Statutes.

Permits or approvals required: Natural Resources Board and Governor.

All development as identified in the master plan will comply with applicable state and local zoning requirements. Piers, erosion control structures, etc. will be constructed according to provisions of NR 1.95 and Wis. Statutes, Chapter 30. Construction of restroom facilities will be in accord with H63 and all other township and/or Trempealeau County zoning ordinances.

4. Estimated Cost and Funding Source

The total estimated development cost based on 1985 figures is \$575,000. ORAP, LAWCON and other funds will be sought as they become available to obtain development funding sources.

PROPOSED PHYSICAL CHANGES

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

The placement of the temporary park entrance visitor station (existing trailer house/nature center) along the north entrance road will entail very little grading and displacement of soil. The facility will remain in place until additional lands within the park boundary can be purchased to provide a site for a permanent visitor station/nature center complex. Relocating this 1,000-2,000 square foot facility will entail minor footing excavation. Excess soil will be distributed on site and graded into the surrounding landscape. The sticker booth at the south entry would be a small 4'x4' open structure located on the asphalt entrance road. It would not necessitate any excavation.

The development of the 100-person capacity group camp would entail minor site leveling, drilling of a well, and constructing a 4 or 8 unit pit toilet. Approximately 40 to 60 cubic yards of material would be excavated for the toilet vault. Spoils will be distributed on site.

Upgrading the family campground would include regraveling the spurs, repairing turf on the camp pads, and relocating the electrical system closer to individual campsites. Minor grading and filling (up to 100 cubic yards of soil) would be used for this project. All fill material for this and other projects will be obtained from the Corps of Engineers dredge disposal stockpile or other private sources.

Development of the handicapped accessible nature trail, observation deck, upgrading existing trails, and developing four additional miles of cross-country ski trails would necessitate some clearing, grubbing, and grading within the trail corridor.

The replacement of the four unit pit toilet in the Indian Mound area would entail excavating approximately 40 cubic yards of material and backfilling and regrading. Similarly, replacing the pit toilet in the campground would entail excavating a similar amount of soil and backfilling and regrading. All disturbed areas from these replacements will be reseeded with grass.

Minor grading will be needed during the construction of the 150-person capacity amphitheater which will be located south of the existing stone shelter. In the latter part of the 10-year period, the 4 unit toilet in the Sand Cliff picnic area will also be replaced with a new 4-unit vault toilet. This will necessitate excavating and backfilling 40-60 cubic yards of soil.

An additional 50 campsites will be constructed on the existing north loop of the campground road system. Some grading and filling will be needed for the construction of 50 - 12 x 50 foot gravel spurs. Approximately 100-200 cubic yards of gravel and fill material will be needed. Development of the camp pads will necessitate some clearing, grubbing, and leveling. Up to 200 cubic yards of fill material may be needed to construct these camp pads.

Boundary signing, intensive and extensive area vegetative management and prairie restoration will also be undertaken. Some tree removal and planting will take place as needed for the health, safety, and welfare of park visitors and to provide shade, screening, and vistas at various points along Trempealeau Bay, within the campground and at various day use areas. Extensive area vegetative management will be in accord with Department policies and approved plans developed by the Park Planner. Basically, the master plan calls for limited selective harvest, removal of dead, dying, and diseased trees, and limited cutting and harvest of pine plantations. As with other development and actions proposed for this park, aesthetics and visual considerations will be kept in mind to reduce the impact of any action, either singly, or in combination with other actions.

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

Shoreline erosion is occurring at a number of locations along Trempealeau Bay. Most recently, a riprap project was completed near the campground. It is anticipated that other minor riprap projects will be needed to correct and eliminate future erosion problems along Trempealeau Bay. Depending on the extent of shoreline erosion control, up to 1000 cubic yards of rock and riprap material may be needed. However, specific quantities have not been determined at this time.

Presently, access to Trempealeau Bay is adequate to meet the recreational needs of the area. However, future siltation may limit access and necessitate dredging and/or construction of wingdams to keep the boat ramp and channel to the Mississippi River open.

The fishing pier should be a cantilevered structure which will not necessitate putting footings or pilings into the bed of the river. Appropriate local, state, and federal permits and authorizations will be obtained for all these improvements.

7. Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures

There are four new buildings proposed for the property. They include a 1000-2000 square foot contact station/nature center and three 4 or 8 unit vault unit pit toilets. In addition, a 24 x 36 foot open sided shelter will be constructed in the proposed group camp and an 8 x 12 foot fishing pier and 16 x 20 observation deck will be built along Trempealeau Bay. Renovation of the stone shelter for park concession purposes will include the construction of some portable walls and counter space. The park road will be seal coated and/or resurfaced as needed over its entire 2.5-mile length. Concrete and asphalt pathways in the main use area will also be resurfaced or replaced as needed.

The 3 shelters to be constructed along the ski trails will be about 12 x 18 feet and enclosed on three sides. The amphitheater, located south of the stone shelter, will be composed of wood seats, a stage, and a wood projection table.

8. Emissions and Discharges

The proposed development and subsequent use of the property is not expected to significantly affect Wisconsin's air quality. However, some local noise and pollution might be expected during construction due to the use of heavy equipment and related construction activities.

Vehicular traffic is expected to increase about 7% (7 cars per hour over an 8-hour period during 182 day major use period) into and through the area within the next 10 years. The resulting emissions are not expected to significantly affect the ambient air quality. Fossil fuels and lubricants consumed by construction equipment and those used for labor activities and fabrication of materials will be consumed and will result in some exhaust emissions. Secondary emissions and discharges will be created through fuel and electricity used to operate the facility.

Minor work on existing hiking and nature trails will be undertaken to better interpret natural features, guard against erosion, and provide a better walking surface for park users. In addition, the handicapped accessible nature trail will be surfaced with limestone screenings or similar material to provide a hard base on the trail tread. The snowmobile trails were phased out in 1984 and no new trails are proposed in this plan. All snowmobile traffic will be directed to the Great River Trail which abuts the north and east sections of the property.

The placement of picnic tables, grills, fire rings, garbage receptacles, etc. should have little if any additional impact on the natural resource, but have a positive value for the park visitor. Some vista cutting along Trempealeau Bay and landscape planting in intensive use areas will be done to maximize user enjoyment and will provide shade, privacy, and views of the surrounding bluffs and river features.

Perrot State Park contains approximately 10.5 acres of prairie remnants that are intensively maintained. These prairie remnants consist of six separate prairie areas. Brady's Bluff summit (1 acre), Brady's Bluff goat prairie (1 acre), Perrot ridge valley (3 acres), Perrot ridge goat prairie (3 acres), Perrot ridge Indian mounds (2 acres), and the vista (.5 acres) are all part of the prairies that covered this region when early settlers arrived. These areas are and will be maintained through rotation burning and removal of woody vegetation that encroach on these areas. Future prescribed burns of these prairie sites are set up on a three-year rotation. Controlled burns will only be conducted when conditions would minimize fire hazard and potential air quality impacts. Required burning permits listing weather conditions under which burns can be conducted will be obtained and followed for each event. Burning will take place under supervision of qualified personnel.

9. Other Changes

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

1. Locator map
2. Development map
3. Ownership 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)

Trempealeau County is unglaciated, but a glacial deposit of unpitted outwash is found along the Mississippi and Black Rivers. In the vicinity of Trempealeau County, the Mississippi River has cut through the resistant lower magnesium limestone and has become established in the weaker upper Cambrian sandstone. Streams tributary to the river have dissected the county. Only the highest ridges of the county are now capped by the lower magnesium limestone, and the geological formation is mainly upper Cambrian sandstone. Alleuvial, silt, sand, and gravel are found in the valleys and this material reaches a maximum depth of 200 feet. Four glacial advances occurred in the Pleistocene Epoch and completely surrounded the southwestern part of Wisconsin. As the glaciers melted, outwash poured from them into the streams and began widening them and filling them in with sediment. The glacial outwash buildup in Trempealeau Bay caused the divide between Trempealeau Mountain and the main land mass north of Trempealeau. The result was a separation of Trempealeau Mountain from both the Minnesota and Galesville bluffs giving it an isolated effect.

Soils within Perrot Park are made up of the Dickinson-Gothum-Sparta association. These soils are excessively drained to well drained and have a subsoil of loamy sand to fine sandy loam over fine to coarse sand and are located on river terraces. This association consists of nearly level to moderately steep river terraces along the Mississippi and Black Rivers. Most of this association is nearly level or gently sloping. It is steeper, however, along sandy terrace escarpments on Trempealeau Mountain and on sand dunes.

Dickinson soils in most places occupy that part of the terrace midway between the river and the upland. The soils are well drained and nearly level to gently sloping. Gothum soils are in the area of the terraces that are nearer to the Mississippi than areas of the Dickinson soils. These soils are somewhat excessively drained and are nearly level to moderately steep. Sparta soils generally are in areas nearer the Mississippi than either the Dickinson or the Gothum soils. These soils are excessively drained and are nearly level to sloping. The minor soils of this association are Denrock soils, wet subsoil variant; Denrock, Boone, Port Byron, and Gail soils. There are also stony and rocky land on the terrace escarpments. Natural fertility is low in most of the soils in this association. Available water capacity is low in Dickinson, Gothum, and Sparta soils.

Perrot Park is bounded on the west and south by the Trempealeau River and Mississippi Rivers respectively. Fish within these water bodies include largemouth bass, northern pike, crappies, bluegills, yellow perch, white bass, walleye, catfish, bullheads, and sauger. In Trempealeau Bay, dense aquatic vegetation growth limits the area that can be fished during the summer months.

The soil types, combined with the geology, have an influence on the surface and groundwater conditions. In Trempealeau County, there are two groundwater provinces. These are the western area of rocks of Paleozoic age and valley alluvium. The valley alluvium is found along stream valleys containing sand and gravel aquifers and is of considerable importance along the Mississippi River because of its large size. An aquifer is a waterbearing stratum of permeable rock, gravel, or sand. The valleys containing sand and gravel in the stratum as much as 200 feet thick, are the best aquifers in the state. The underlying sandstone is less permeable than the sands and gravels and is of secondary importance as aquifers.

The air quality is clean, reflecting a lack of point sources of pollution in the immediate vicinity.

There are approximately 295 acres of wetland and open water located within Trempealeau Bay. This area and that associated with the shoreline of the 32-acre island located within the Mississippi comprise all of the wetland located within the park boundary. As siltation continues in Trempealeau Bay, the marshland is giving away to lowland brush and trees cover type. Presently, this land accounts for 30-40 acres within the Trempealeau Bay.

12. Biological

a) Flora

At the time the white man began settling near Trempealeau, Perrot Park was covered by prairie. Scattered throughout the prairie were small oak openings and savannahs consisting mainly of burr oak. In stark contrast to the prairie was Trempealeau Mountain, the only heavily wooded land in the area. Because it was surrounded by water, it escaped the annual fires that prevented tree species from establishing themselves on the prairie. It has also been reported that some of the river bottoms were forested. Elm, willow, and silver maple were probably the most common species. Presently, oak is the most predominant timber type in Perrot Park, and northern red oak is the most predominant species. White oak, black oak, and bur oak are also included in nearly pure red oak stands. The majority of these stands are 15 inches in diameter and larger. There are also smaller acreages of trees in the 11-15 diameter size as well as some smaller in the 5-11 inch diameter classification. Some 11-15 inch diameter black walnut and hickory are scattered throughout the park.

The understory consists mainly of more shade tolerant species such as hickory, basswood, elm, and soft maple. A dense shrub layer of hazel, dogwood, and blackberry exist on the north facing slopes. This shrub layer is less dense to nonexistent on the south slopes.

Oak wilt disease is present in all stands and very heavy in some. Dutch elm disease is present in all areas that contain elm.

The central hardwoods consist of oak, shagbark and bitternut, hickory and basswood. A number of species make up the understory including the hickories, basswood, oak, elm, black cherry, black oak, hackberry, and ironwood. Regeneration consists largely of hickory and basswood. There are a number of scattered pure stands of aspen, white birch, and black locust. All are about 1 acre or less in size. These stands are in generally good condition.

The bottomland hardwoods are located along the base of Trempealeau Mountain and within a portion of Trempealeau Bay. These stands are made up of large silver maple and cottonwood.

The aspen and white birch stands are 11-15 inches in diameter with a few of the white birch reaching over 15 inches in diameter. The aspen is generally overmature and in poor condition.

The pine plantations consist of three native Wisconsin species; red, white, and jack pine, and a small area of scotch pine. Red pine makes up about 90% of the plantations. Most of the plantations have had at least one thinning. All stands are healthy and in good condition except for the jack pine which is overmature.

The prairie type is made up largely of native prairie grasses including big and little bluestem, switch grass, Indian grass, and side oats grama. Unique plant communities include the native prairie within the Brady's Bluff scientific area and the natural black walnut trees located in the western portion of the park. These trees are somewhat unique to this area because of their large size and excellent quality. Trempealeau is slightly north of the natural range for good quality black walnut.

b) Fauna

A list of wildlife species known to be present within the park can be found in the master plan appendix. Major species known to be present include: whitetail deer, cottontail rabbit, a variety of squirrel, beaver, muskrat, fox, and raccoon. Birds include pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, bittern, ducks, hawks, kestrels, and a variety of songbirds. In addition, a variety of turtles, snakes, and frogs are found within the property. Threatened species found on the property include: the double crested cormorant, great egret, coopers hawk, red-shouldered hawk, wood turtle, and blanding's turtle. Endangered species include the osprey, bald eagle, common tern, and loggerhead shrike.

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

The property is located in a rural setting within the Mississippi River valley. Adjacent land use is agricultural, rural residential, and urban. The nearest business area is the Village of Trempealeau. The closest metropolitan area is La Crosse, approximately 25 miles south of the property. The park is also located within a two hour drive of the

Minneapolis-St. Paul area, Eau Claire, Black River Falls, Tomah, Red Wing, Rochester, and Winona, Minnesota. Primary access to the property is via Hwy 93 and State Highways 35-53 (the Great River Road). Immediate access is by township and Department of Natural Resources roads.

Historically, hunting and trapping took place in Trempealeau Bay prior to the park's inception and continues to the present day. Termination of such activities would create very strong negative public sentiment and eliminate viable recreational activities. Therefore, it is proposed to designate the Trempealeau Bay area (295 acres) and a 32-acre island within the Mississippi River as wildlife area (RD₂). In all, 327 acres will be turned over to wildlife management. These lands should remain designated as wildlife area until hunting and trapping are no longer viable activities due to such things as siltation and subsequent loss of resources within the bay. At such time the land can be reevaluated and, if appropriate, returned to park status. Deer hunting during the deer gun season will continue as needed to maintain the herd in accordance with management unit 61 overwinter goals.

According to the Area Wildlife Manager (personal communication, July, 1985), conversion of this 327-acre unit to wildlife management will not present administrative or management problems.

The 1984-85 operations budget for Perrot Park was \$107,700. With 1984 revenue totalling \$60,575, the present revenue to operations cost is estimated to be 56%. All revenues collected from the sale of admission stickers and campground registration fees are remitted to a segregated fund from which operations and maintenance are partially subsidized.

In 1983, the Legislative Audit Bureau recommended that "to increase compliance with the required payment of park admission fees, the Department should exert its apparent authority over roads adjacent to and within state parks or take steps to gain clear enforcement authority if current enforcement efforts are ineffective." This is very applicable to Perrot State Park in that the state owns all of the interior roads within Perrot, yet has an inefficient sticker sales system. Initiating a single entrance park would appear to correct this problem. However, due to strong local opposition, it does not appear feasible at this time. Over 1000 people signed a petition against the single-entrance park proposal (where they would have to drive out of the park on the same road that they drive in) and sent that to the governor and other local political representatives. Senator Moen's response was "the audit bureau recommendations are not cast in stone, since it is not a safety factor or loss of tremendous revenue, the consensus of the individual should prevail." Vehicular sticker collection data indicates that Perrot may be losing tens of thousands of dollars per year since people enter the park and use the facilities without purchasing a sticker. The lack of a contact station near the entrance often means visitors have to be contacted by park personnel who are on patrol before they buy a park sticker. In order to remedy the situation, it is proposed that two public contact stations be established on the interior park road system; one on the north, and one on the south. Although more money will be expended for facilities and manpower, this should be offset by increased revenue collection efficiency and better public service.

According to the 1980 Wisconsin Camper Survey conducted by the University of Wisconsin Recreation Resources Center Extension, campers spending had a very substantial economic impact on the local economy. The report stated that, "hypothetically, a 100-site campground with 45% occupancy over a 100-day season would generate \$216,000 of direct community spending and an additional \$168,000 in indirect spending. This is assuming a multiplier of 1.7. Furthermore, almost 10 full or part-time jobs could be supported with such spending in the community in 1980."

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

The park is rich in archaeological and historical sites. In fact, Perrot State Park was established in large part due to its overwhelming historic/archaeological significance. A French fort and Perrot post sites represent a very important part of historical records of the early fur trade and exploration of the region. In addition, there are 12 known prehistoric mound sites which account for several dozen mounds. At least two Indian village sites also were located within the park boundary, a consequence of diverse natural habitats around the park, including the river, prairie, marsh, bluff, and woodlands. The village and mound sites were left by middle woodland (Hopwell), late woodland (Effigy Mound), and Oneota cultures, some of them dating back over 2000 years. Three very unusual prehistoric petroglyph sites (rock carvings) demonstrate the sacred nature of Trempealeau Mountain and the surrounding bluffs to Perrot's ancient inhabitants. Most of the other petroglyph sites in Wisconsin and Minnesota have already been destroyed by vandalism and modern development and, thus, these remaining glyphs represent a very scarce resource in the region.

In view of these known historical and archaeological sites, the historical society recommends that prior to any ground disturbing activities within the park, the Department consult with their office to determine whether further archaeological testing is warranted. We intend to comply with their wishes and to work with the Mississippi Valley Archaeological Center in assessing and summarizing the archaeological, cultural, and historical resources within Perrot Park.

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

15. Physical (include visual if applicable)

Proposed new development and major building maintenance will have limited impact on the property. Use is expected to increase approximately 25% over the next ten-year period; however, based on the existing and proposed facilities, this increase should not overtax the man-made or natural resource. Maintenance of the area, its man-made features, and vegetative cover should maximize user enjoyment and preceptions, as well as provide diversity of habitat.

Development of the new contact station, trails, campground and support facilities will cause some minor disruption to the soil, mainly through exposure and compaction during construction phase. Farther away from these specific developments, soils will be effected by such things as compaction caused by maintenance equipment and foot traffic. Maintenance practices will be utilized to guard against destruction of ground cover which may result in erosion or other detrimental effects to the resource.

Development plans call for the additional planting of trees and shrubs for shade, screening, and space definition in the areas such as the campground, group camp, day-use areas and around administrative buildings.

In the extensive areas of the property, all tree cutting activities will be done with aesthetics in mind. Buffer strips, irregular cut boundary lines and other techniques will be utilized to reduce the visual impact of cutting the pine plantations and dead and diseased trees. Trail alignment and resulting clearing and grubbing will be evaluated closely to reduce any detrimental impact such development may have on overall park aesthetics, especially as viewed from some of the upland overlook areas. Similarly, any riprapping of the Trempealeau Bay shoreline will be done with concern given to appearance from various upland overlook areas.

Development of the property is not expected to significantly affect Wisconsin's air quality. Some local noise and air pollution, however, might be expected during construction due to the use of heavy equipment and disruption of surface conditions. Some increase of vehicular traffic into and through the area will add to noise and potential air pollution. These emission, however, are not expected to significantly affect the ambient air quality. Highway 95 and a local township and state owned roads could easily accommodate the expected 7% increase in traffic volume over the next ten-year period.

All burns for prairie maintenance will be conducted within prescribed conditions of burning permits to maximize safety and minimize air quality impacts.

16. Biological

The number and type of plant species at Perrot State Park will change somewhat due to natural succession, interruption of succession, cutting, burning, and planting of various plant stock. Removal of dead and dying trees will occur to insure a healthy timber stand and to insure visitor safety. Some vegetative clearing and brushing will occur to create vistas from use areas, along trails and overlook sites. This would entail some tree removal, limb cutting, and occasional mowing. Timber harvest will occur on the pine plantations located on the property. Some cutting of diseased oak, elm, and removal of overaged aspen stands will also occur. However, due to their small size and extent, these cuttings will either be done with a program such as the WCC or firewood permit cutting. In addition, revegetation will be fostered through under-planting and new planting as needed. Disrupted land near construction sites will be reseeded and planted with native tree and shrub species, as well as a variety of ground covers, to guard against erosion and provide the user with shade and other amenities associated with vegetative cover.

Hiking trails, nature trails, and cross-country ski trails located throughout the property will increase the disturbance of some species such as fox, that are timid and do not adapt well to humans. However, most species present in the park already adapt to human disturbance and should not be noticeably affected. Some species such as deer will use the trails as travel lanes, and if seeded to grass and legumes as feeding areas.

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

Expansion and improvement of park facilities will result in better service to the public. Providing the group camp area and adding a number of campsites to the campground will serve to meet some of the needs as identified in local, regional, and state outdoor recreational plans. The facilities will also increase campsite utilization and length of stay and therefore, will increase camping revenue. This should also mean more dollars for the local economy based on information presented within the 1980 Wisconsin Camper Survey. Providing a nature center, amphitheater, and additional nature and hiking trails will increase the educational mission of the property. The user will be provided with more information about their natural environment and Department programs being undertaken to safeguard those and other resources. The prairie scientific area should also provide a learning environment.

Enlarging, remodeling, and, in some instances, replacing obsolete facilities should increase park user satisfaction and lead to increased use and duration of stay. This, in turn, will provide economic benefits through increased park admission sticker sales and campsite rental fees. It is expected that the park will continue to generate local commercial sales for such things as gasoline, picnic and camping supplies, fishing and boating supplies, and related items. If the proposed development projects are implemented, at least \$570,000 (annually) will be put into the regional economy. Proposed land acquisition will cause a shift from private ownership to public ownership which will result in more land being available for public recreation and enjoyment. Tax loss will be negligible as the state makes payments in lieu of property taxes on land that it owns. These payments do decline over a ten-year period to a minimum of 50¢ per acre at the present rate scale.

There are nine parcels of land remaining to be purchased within the park. There are three home sites and one farm unit with the remaining lots being vacant at this time. It is the state's policy to acquire any land within the boundary from willing sellers. If the landowner desires to sell his residence, relocation assistance is available.

There are three management problems worthy of discussion:

1. Roads and inholdings

The dual entrance (north and south entry points) at Perrot causes inefficient operation and loss of sticker revenue. Two public contact points will be established to address this problem and reduce its economic impact.

The second problem involves the lack of development space for the north side park entrance visitor station - nature center complex. We will continue negotiations with the landowner and purchase the property when and if it becomes available. Until such time, we will have to operate out of a temporary facility.

2. Hunting and trapping in Trempealeau Bay

Historically, hunting and trapping have occurred in Trempealeau Bay and continue to the present time. Rather than closing the bay to hunting and trapping which would create a large public outcry, it is proposed that the bay and an island within the Mississippi River be transferred to Wildlife Management and managed by them. This would allow hunting and trapping in the bay and eliminate conflicts.

3. No swimming area

There is no swimming facility within Perrot State Park. Years ago, park users utilized Trempealeau Bay for swimming. However, over the years the bay has been lost as a swimming site due to siltation. In the late 1960's an attempt was made to reestablish the beach on Trempealeau Bay west of the stone shelter. That project provided a swimming beach for two years, then the area once again filled in. Based on that experience, recreating a swimming beach on Trempealeau Bay is not feasible. Other options, including creating a dug pond, have been evaluated by a Department hydrologist. No satisfactory site could be located within the existing stateowned land. There is a public swimming pool in the Village of Trempealeau. Perhaps an agreement can be negotiated between the Department and the village whereby park visitors could utilize the pool for a nominal charge.

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

Because there are many known archaeological and historical sites within the property, any development should be closely evaluated to see if it will have an impact on such resources. Therefore, the state historical society will be contacted to inspect the property if any evidence of sites is suspected or uncovered. If needed, to avoid impact on such a site, development plans and construction will be modified.

Protection will be provided for endangered and threatened species that may be found to inhabit or migrate through the park. Guidelines and MC 2328.1 will be followed.

19. Probable Adverse Impacts That Cannot be Avoided

Increased presence of man within the park may mean some interference with wildlife habitat and plant damage. The construction stage will expose some soil to water and wind erosion. Some dirt and noise will also be created during construction. Air pollution and emissions into the atmosphere will be increased slightly due to the increased auto traffic into and out of the area and prescribed prairie burns. Burn impacts will be minor as permit conditions will be followed. Some minor

grading will take place around construction sites, however, this will only minimally alter existing topography and drainage patterns. Some soil erosion could occur at construction sites. However, this will be minimized through the use of appropriate erosion control techniques. Increased use could possibly lead to the need for public services such as police and fire protection, as well as medical attention. Gasoline and other fuels will be consumed by people coming to the park and by maintenance vehicles used in the park. Traffic will increase on the state trunk highway, township, and state park road. However, this increase is minimal and therefore is not expected to have a great effect on traffic volume.

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

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

1. No additional acquisition and no additional development.

This alternative would provide for no further acquisition and/or no further development. The Department would merely retain and manage the existing resource and its recreational facilities. This alternative is not desirable since the property was acquired for recreational purposes in order to meet the present and future needs of the recreating public. No additional development could lead to degradation of the resource, its facilities and could lead to safety problems. No additional acquisition within the property boundary could lead to encroachment of undesirable land uses and result in insufficient land area for future proposed development.

2. Limited additional acquisition and development.

It is recommended that the property remain classified as a scenic state park. This would provide for a full complement of recreational facilities as well as the protection, conservation, and interpretation of the natural environment, scientific areas, historic and archaeological sites. It is anticipated that use will increase approximately 25% during the next ten-year period following approval of the master plan and subsequent addition of new facilities. Proposed limited acquisition will protect fragile natural features, prevent encroachment, and provide the necessary land needed for future development proposals.

3. Additional large-scale development.

Large-scale development, including enlarging the campground, day-use facilities and trail system is possible. However, based on present and projected use figures, such action is not warranted at this time.

4. Development of a single-entrance park.

Perrot State Park has an interior road system that connects the Village of Trempealeau on the south to the local township roads on the north. Since the park's inception, it has had a through-road policy whereby visitors could enter and leave from the south or from the north. Besides providing access to the park, the road has provided a "short-cut" between Winona, Minnesota and points north with the Village of Trempealeau and areas south of the park. It has also been used as a scenic drive. The situation has caused difficulty with sticker sales and subsequent revenue collection as no visitor contact station is located on the road system. The present office is located in the shop building which was sited off the main road for safety and security reasons. A park entrance visitor station is needed to provide better public service to the park visitor, increase revenue collection efficiency, increase efficient use of park personnel, increase park security, and meet the recommendations as outlined in the Legislative Audit Report of 1983.

In 1983, the Legislative Audit Bureau recommended that "to increase compliance with the required payment of park admission fees, the Department should exert its apparent authority over roads adjacent to and within state parks and take steps to gain clear enforcement authority if current enforcement efforts are ineffective." This is very applicable to Perrot State Park in that the state owns all of the interior roads within Perrot, yet has an inefficient sticker sales system. However, the option of developing a single-entrance park does not appear feasible due to the strong local opposition. Over 1000 people signed a petition against the proposal and sent it to the governor and other local political representatives. Senator Moen's response was "the audit bureau recommendations are not cast in stone, since it is not a safety factor or loss of tremendous revenue, the consensus of the individual should prevail."

Vehicular sticker collection data indicates that Perrot Park may be losing tens of thousands of dollars per year since people enter the park and use the facilities without purchasing a sticker. The lack of a contact station near the entrance often means visitors have to be contacted by park personnel who are on patrol before they do buy a sticker. In order to remedy this situation, it is proposed that two public contact stations be established on the interior park road system, one at the north and one at the south. Although more money will be expended for facilities and manpower, this should be offset by increased revenue collection efficiency and better public service.

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.

Providing a group camp, more nature trails, hiking trails, cross-country ski trails, and possibly enlarging the family campground will increase the use of the park to a point where park revenues will be increased and secondary economic benefits will be realized by the local business establishments. Upgrading and enlarging the day-use area facilities will also increase income and have secondary economic benefits. This additional use will generate traffic into the area and increase use of local roads.

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.

The proposed development action will not result in a significant change to the social, physical, or biological environment of the property because similar facilities and activities have been provided on the property since its establishment.

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.

Perrot State Park has a scientific area, threatened and endangered plant and animal species, and a number of historical and archaeological sites. Perrot is the only state park located on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi that has such outstanding historical and archaeological sites. For these reasons the park's resources can be considered somewhat relatively scarce, both regionally and statewide.

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

The overall development and maintenance of the property is not precedent setting as similar management practices and programs discussed throughout the master plan are being carried out on a statewide basis. However, not establishing a single-entrance park even though all the interior park road system belong to the Department of Natural Resources, is somewhat precedent setting. Local attitude and opposition to the single-entrance park is dictating policy even though we have a mandate from the legislative audit bureau to maximize our control over interior park road systems. It appears that this controversy will be settled on a political rather than economic or management efficiency basis.

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

There are two controversial issues associated with this master plan. The first is the question of having one or two entry points into the park, and the second is hunting and trapping within Trempealeau Bay. Efforts have been made in this master plan to accommodate local interests in both regards.

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.

There is a conflict between local interests and the legislative audit bureau's report on proper management of interior park roads. It appears that local interest will take precedence in this situation.

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?

In regards to development, additional actions of this type would generally upgrade existing state park properties. Due to the location of proposed development, the modification of existing buildings, there should be little significant impact on the natural environment.

There are nearly two dozen other state parks which have multiple-entrance road systems. If and when the Department would gain control of these roads and would chose not to exercise their right of establishing a single entrance contact point, the Department could realize perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars of lost revenue each year.

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

Some feel wear and tear on machinery and depreciation of resource materials is non-recoverable as is the manpower utilized in the planning, construction and operation of the park. Fuel used to power vehicles to and from the park will be irretrievable. Similarly, energy used to maintain the property would be permanently committed. Funds used to develop the area will be irretrievably committed as well. For all practical purposes, roads, parking lots, and buildings will be permanently committed, and the materials will be basically unsalvageable. However, developed areas could be converted to the original conditions as roads are often obliterated, regraded, and revegetated. Abandoned building foundations are also often removed and the resulting site is regraded and revegetated.

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.

The park is open to all ethnic and cultural groups.

30) Other:

None.

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

31.	Date	Contact	Comments
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Perrot's master planning process began January 1983 and runs up to the present date, July 1, 1985.

The following individuals were on the master planning task force:

- Michael Ries, leader
- Allen Middendorp, park manager
- Jim Talley, fish manager
- Dick Mertig, land agent
- Dave Linderud, wildlife manager
- John Sieger, conservation warden
- Gary Zielski, forest manager
- Jerry Stetzer, area engineer

Comments: Each provided information in his field of specialty as well as reviewing and commenting on the draft master plan.

Jim Lissack, West Central District Director, contacted by J. R. Huntoon, Division Resource Management Administrator.

Sent out approved goal and objective statements for Perrot State park.

Bill Smith, Office of Endangered Species to Mike Ries, West Central District Park Planner.

Comments on scientific area. No proposed expansion or additions.

Allen Middendorp, Park Manager, contacted by Kathy Stevenson, Regional Archaeologist from the Mississippi Valley Archaeological Center.

Provided summary of archaeological and historical sites. Expressed interest in input in the master planning process.

Allen Middendorp, Park Manager, contacted by Richard W. Dexter, Chief, Registration and Compliance Section of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Provided information regarding historical and archaeological sites within and near Perrot State park.

Dave Weizenicker, Director, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, contacted by Bill Green, State Historical Society.

The State Historical Society will make a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places to include all of the known archaeological sites within Perrot State Park which are eligible for the National Register. Official notice will be forthcoming.

Kohlmeyer personal communication, July 22, 1985

The following is a list of groups and individuals which were involved in the master planning process since January 1, 1983.

4 local service groups including the Trempealeau Sportsman Club, Small Business Association, Lions Club, and Friends of Perrot. Nearly 160 individual participated in those meetings. In addition, individual meetings were held with the Trempealeau Village President, Trempealeau Town Chairman, Chairman of the Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors, the state senator and representative for the District, the president of La Crosse Campers Association, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and La Crosse Bowman's Bicycle Group. In addition, a public meeting was held in the Village of Trempealeau on February 8, 1984. Over 150 citizens attended and voiced their concerns and interests about Perrot Park and its future.

Additional input will be forthcoming during the 45-day master plan review and environment assessment process.

Project Name: Perrot State Park

County: Trempealeau

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:

Michael L. Ries

8/20/85

Signature of Evaluator

Date

Hor D. Wiegand

10/8/85

Noted: Area Supervisor or Bureau Director

Date

all the 8/20/85

Number of responses to public notice 0

Public response log attached?..... —

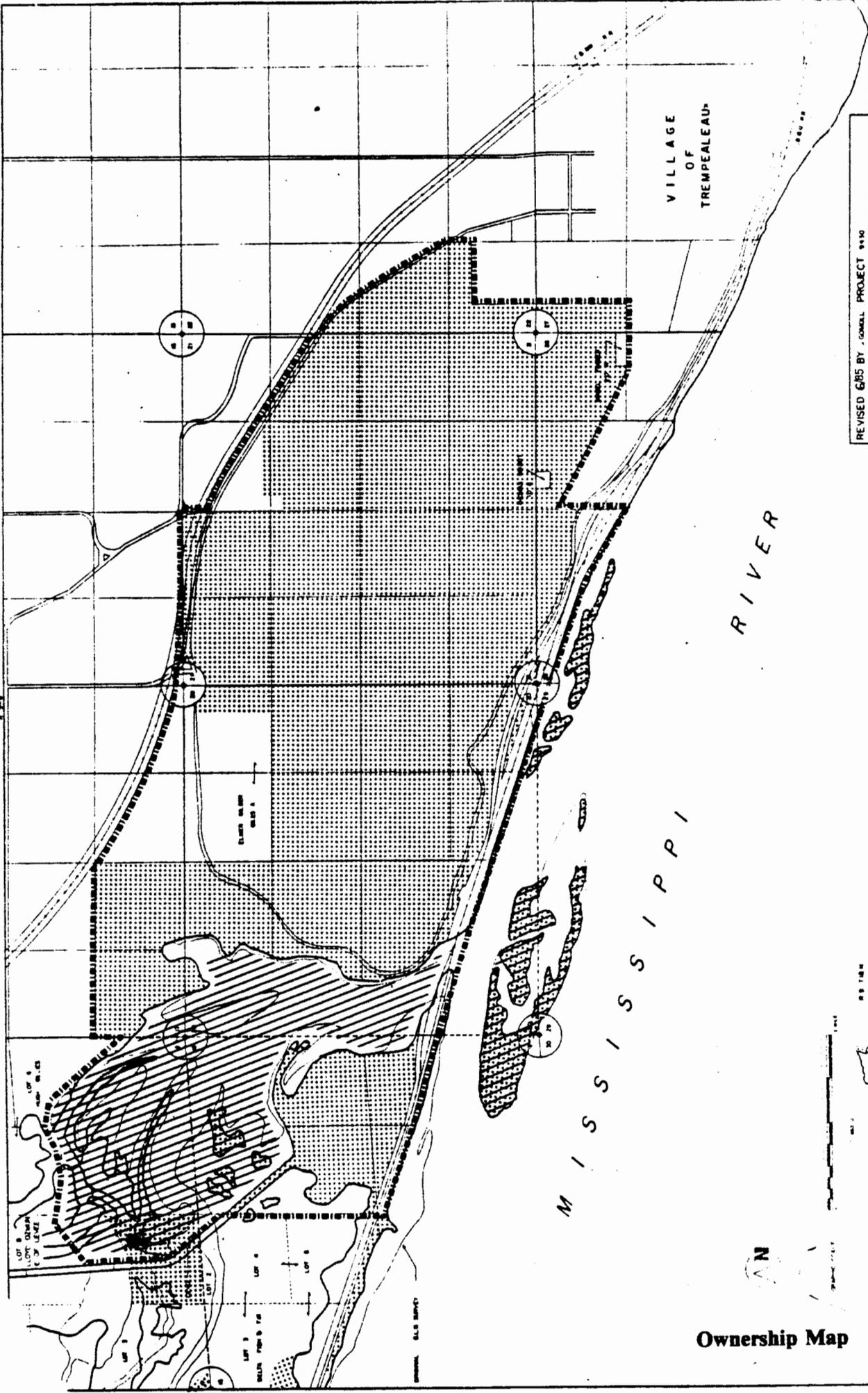
CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA

District Director or Director of BEI (or Designee) Date

W. J. Birch

5/4/87

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.



Ownership Map Figure 2

REVISED 6/85 BY CONZOL PROJECT 8910

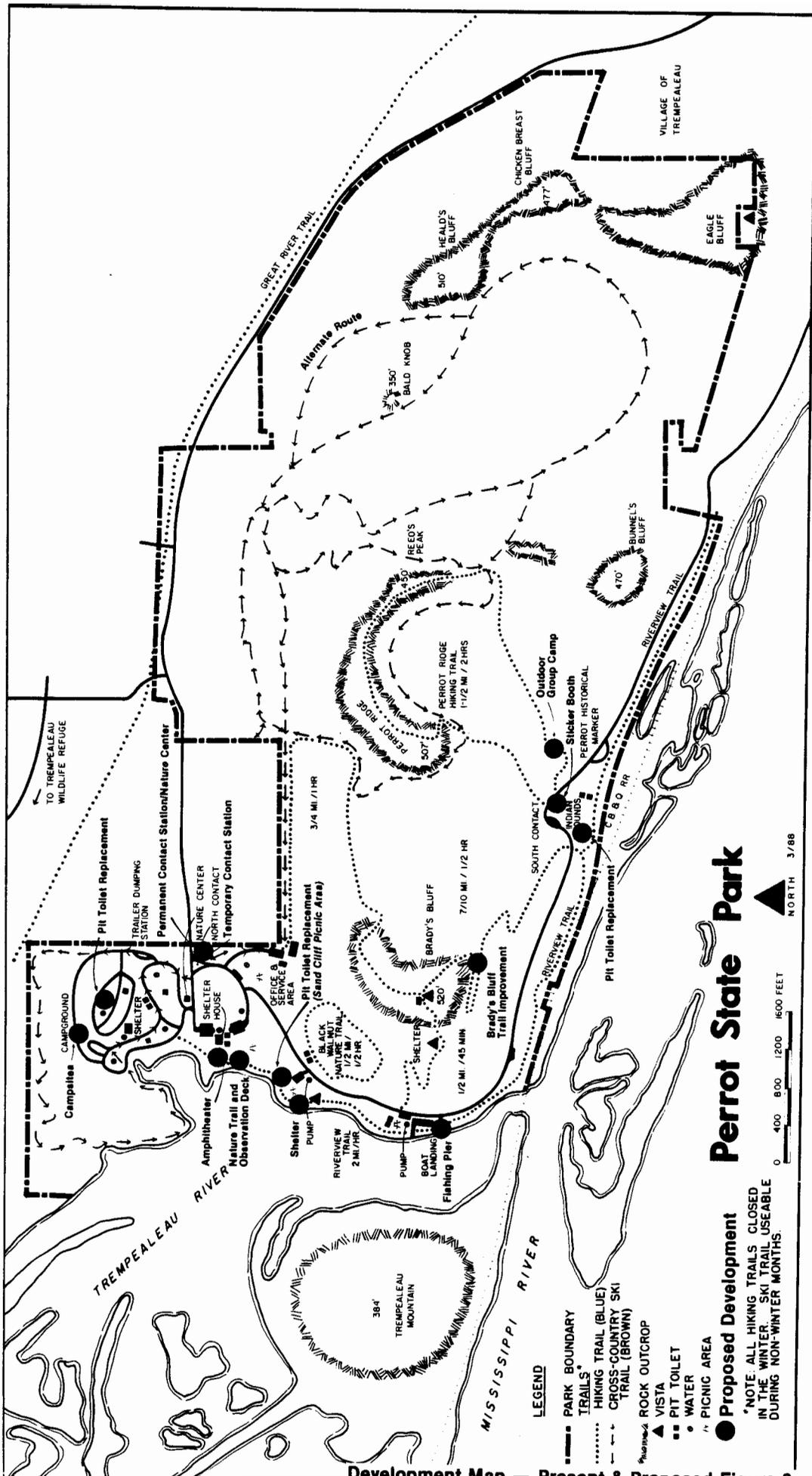
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 BUREAU OF PARKS AND RECREATION
 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

WISCONSIN ACQUISITION MAP
 DECATUR STATE PARK

Approved by
 State of Wisconsin
 1985

TRANSFER TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
 STATE OWNERSHIP
 CURRENT PARK BOUNDARY





Development Map — Present & Proposed Figure 3

