

STEARNS COUNTY PARK DEPARTMENT

1985 ANNUAL REPORT



Stearns County Park Commissioners

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Thank you to all of the county commissioners, park commissioners, staff and volunteers, who have made a contribution to Stearns County's outdoor recreation, park, and open space program.

Following are the major areas of activity of the Stearns County Park Commission and the Stearns County Park Department: 1) Planning, 2) Acquisition, 3) Development, 4) Maintenance and Operations, 5) Funding and 6) Usership.

#### PLANNING

Two park commissioners were re-appointed to the Stearns County Park Commission. They were Mr. James Gammel, who represents District #1 and Mr. Joseph Gully, who represents District #5. Both men were re-appointed for three (3) year terms that would expire at the first County Board meeting in 1988. Mr. Ervin Gelle decided not to accept re-appointment as District #2 Park Commissioner, effective December 31, 1985. Mr. Gelle served on the Park Commission for 8½ years.

Additional expansion of Warner Lake County Park was considered in 1985. Two parcels of property became available adjacent to the existing 75 acre park on Warner Lake. The first parcel is owned by Joe Jovanovich which contains 40 acres. The second parcel is owned by Ted and Alvina Abeln which contains 133.4 acres, including buildings. In March, the Park Commission initiated a Preliminary Grant Application for land acquisition funds from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resource (LCMR) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON). The LCMR funds are State funds and the LAWCON funds are administered by the National Park Service. In April, the Park Commission approved a preliminary application with recommendation to the County Board for approval. The County Board authorized filing of the preliminary application with the State of Minnesota. The project was approved by the State of Minnesota and ranked second out of all out-state grant proposals submitted to the State for 1986 funding. The final application was approved for submittal on October 5th, 1985. State approval of the final application is expected in January of 1986.

A parcel of property in Cheryl Park was considered as a potential park site in 1985. Mr. Rogosheske and Mr. Mainz, submitted a 75 acre parcel of property in Cheryl Park addition for possible purchase for park land. The land included much wetland. The Park Commission decided it was not interested in this parcel of property at this particular time.

The 1970 Stearns County Recreation Plan was targeted for updating. The Park Commission approved a resolution on May 8, 1985 to initiate the updating process. The Park Commission requested that the Planning Commission of Stearns County develop a program to implement the update.

In May, Harold Theisen, was hired through the Minnesota Emergency Employment Development Act (MEED), for a six (6) month position. His project was to update the outdoor recreation facility inventory for Stearns County. The inventory included 325 public and private outdoor recreation facilities in Stearns County.

Applications for Fishing Pier Grants were approved by the Park Commission. The State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources initiated a program Cooperative Opportunities for Resource Enhancement (CORE). The program would provide fishing piers at Warner Lake County Park and Lake Sylvia Wayside access. Both applications were approved, but only the Lake Sylvia project was programmed for funding. Agreements will be submitted in 1986 for County Board approval. The piers are purchased 100% by the DNR and maintenance responsibility belongs entirely to the county, except where major damage occurs to the facility.

The Park Commission initiated the process for dissolution of the Fairhaven Mill Historic Wayside and Dam Joint Powers Commission in June. The official letter of dissolution was sent to Wright County in November, stating that dissolution would take effect January 1, 1986. Stearns County offered to continue funding ground maintenance up to \$2105.00 per year, but all supervision of the site would be the responsibility of the owner, which is Wright County. Wright County attempted to turn the title for the park over to Stearns County. Stearns County declined the offer.

Park Ordinance Revision continued from 1984. A major topic of discussion in the ordinance was the recommended restriction of all motorized watercraft from Warner Lake. The two methods available for instituting such restrictions were: 1) Through control of the access in the park and 2) Water surface zoning of the lake. At the end of the year the method being recommended was the access-control approach. The revisions will be discussed by the County Board in 1986.

One of the ongoing duties of the park director is to publicize the park system. Throughout the year various media were used for this purpose. The park system slide show was presented to: the "Environmental Studies Class" at S.C.S.U., the "St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club," the Sertoma Club, the St. Cloud Exchange Club, the Kiwanis Club of St. Cloud and three 3 groups of township weed inspectors (County Extension meetings held in Greenwald, Cold Spring and Albany).

The WJON radio "party-line" show was used 3 times to update the public on natural events taking place in the parks, such as beaver activity at Mississippi River County Park in the fall.

The "St. Cloud Daily Times" newspaper ran a summer park issue giving the locations of the parks and facilities contained within them.

Other organizations publicized the park system through their own brochures. They were the Minnesota Dept. of Tourism (in its ski trails and snowmobile trail pamphlets), the Stearns County Historical Society, and the S.C.S.U. Geography Dept. (in its "Geology Field Guide.")

A project was developed for the Spring Hill 4-H club. The club harvested and planted oak seeds and plant prairie flowers in Spring Hill Conty Park. The Park Commission also conducted a shelter dedication ceremony at Warner Lake County Park.

ACQUISITION

In January, 1985, the title was officially transferred for the Ramsden and Olson site to Stearns County. This added 45 acres of parkland to Warner Lake County Park, giving a new park acreage total of 75 acres. This acquisition incorporated all shoreline used for swimming on Warner Lake within the park boundaries.

DEVELOPMENT

There was no development of new park facilities in 1985 within the park system.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Staffing for the year was similiar to 1984. There were 2 full-time year round park maintenance staff. Seasonal staffing included: County-paid caretakers at Mississippi River County Park, Warner Lake County Park, Spring Hill County Park, and a mowing crew leader. The hours and schedules for each of the park caretakers varied according to the maintenance needs of each park.

Summer employment programs provided one (1) aide for the mowing crew. (One) 1 aide for the grounds crew, one (1) aide for the construction crew, and a scretary for the director. The positions were 9 weeks long.

The MEED program also provided one (1) aide for the grounds crew. This position was six (6) months long.

Maintenance of the Lake Sylvia Wayside and Access continued to be contracted out to Richard Fink of Melrose.

Figure 1 shows the types of activities the staff performed during 1985 and indicates the percentages of time spent in those activity areas.

<u>TIME USE</u>		
<u>Work Fuction</u>	<u>Manhours</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Manhours</u>
Other (includes caretakers)	1,796.5	34.0
Construction	1,184.5	22.5
Grounds Care	1,140.5	21.6
Travel	478.5	9.1
Equipment Maintenance	352.0	6.8
Landscaping	209.0	4.0
Building Maintenance	<u>105.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>
TOTAL	5,266.0	100.0

-Figure 1 -

The only change in the time usage from 1984 was a switching of position between equipment maintenance and landscaping.

Figure 2 indicates the approximate cost of each park within the system. All maintenance and operation costs are broken out to each of the parks according to the manhours spent in that park and the percentage of the total park system acreage contained within the particular park.

PARK COSTS

Mississippi River County Park	\$ 35,380.72
Warner Lake County Park	33,242.65
Upper Spunk Lake County Park	2,320.96
St. Martin Canoe Access	4,095.98
Oak Township Park Site	1,301.57
Two Rivers Lake Park Site	2,231.26
Lake Sylvia Wayside & Access	990.94
Spring Hill County Park	10,208.01
Richmond River Wayside	371.88
Lake Koronis Regional Park	7,991.12
Heims Mill Canoe Access	2,792.63
Fairhaven Mill Park	<u>2,614.83</u>
TOTAL	\$103,542.55

Maintenance and operation of Lake Koronis Regional Park continued to be administrated and operated through a Joint Powers Agreement with Meeker County. A new caretaker was hired this year.

Maintenance of Fairhaven Mill Park was again provided through a contract with Green View, Inc. Administration of the park was handled by the Fairhaven Mill Historic Wayside and Dam Joint Powers Commission. This Commission was programmed to dissolve at the end of 1985 (see the Planning Section above for more details).

## FUNDING

\$151,698.00 were levied for the Park Fund in 1985. This was .288 mils, or 1.2% of the total county property tax (\$12,372,754.00) levied for 1985.

A summary of the revenue for the Park Fund can be found in Figure 3. A summary of expenditures from the Park Fund is listed in Figure 4. A detail of administrative costs is found in Figure 5.

ANNUAL PARK COST ACCOUNTING WORKSHEET

Year 1985

REVENUE

General property taxes, current	\$109,660.02
General property taxes, delinquent	5,086.61
Mobile home taxes, current	453.30
Mobile home taxes, delinquent	22.40
Payment-in-lieu of taxes, natural resources - Federal	98.06
Payment-in-lieu of taxes, HRA	79.88
Payment-in-lieu of taxes, other	.60
Park, shelter rental	641.10
Commodity and property sales	1,330.00
Concessions and commissions	81.89
Homestead credit	35,689.90
Local government aid	11,956.05
Wetlands credit	4.62
Wetlands reimbursements	.54
Other	.11
Subtotal	\$165,105.08
1984 Park Fund Balance	75,862.91
	\$240,967.99
Revenue Sharing	85,000.00
TOTAL	\$325,967.99

ANNUAL PARK COST ACCOUNTING WORKSHEET

EXPENDITURES

	Year <u>1985</u>
<u>ALLOCATED AS TO PARK</u>	
Fairhaven Mill Park	\$ 1,963.17
Lake Koronis Regional Park	7,991.12
Subtotal	<u>\$ 9,954.29</u>
<u>UNALLOCATED AS TO PARK</u>	
<u>PERSONNEL SERVICES</u>	
Salaries, permanent	\$ 62,904.34
Salaries, part-time	6,892.88
Salaries, overtime	306.46
Longevity	230.00
Insurance, health	6,854.28
Insurance, life	54.00
Insurance, disability	159.12
PERA	2,890.52
FICA	4,792.02
Unemployment Compensation	809.49
Subtotal	<u>\$ 85,893.11</u>
<u>SERVICES AND CHARGES</u>	
Telephone	\$ 4,961.28
Postage	208.89
Printing and publishing	720.40
Advertising	42.75
Dues	160.00
Subscriptions	35.00
Electricity	1,774.12
Natural Gas	1,546.21
Professional services	1,600.00
Contracted purchased services	4,599.40
Repair and maintenance on buildings	207.61
Repair & maintenance of machinery & equipment	3,517.54
Grounds maintenance	2,729.63
Mileage	1,016.18
Travel expense/seminars & conf.	17.70
Registration & conf. expense	514.77
Meal expense	26.68
Machine and equipment rental	257.60
Other service agreements	162.31
Insurance, comprehensive business	( 48.54)
Insurance, worker's comp.	2,083.72
Insurance, liability	2,139.62
Insurance, auto	2,968.84
Subtotal	<u>\$ 31,290.25</u>
<u>SUPPLIES</u>	
Office	\$ 714.50
Repair & maintenance	6,430.38
Cleaning	18.90
Fuel & lubricants	2,937.86
Miscellaneous	144.62
Books	116.60
Subtotal	<u>\$ 10,362.86</u>
<u>CAPITAL OUTLAY</u>	
Site acquisitions and improvements	\$ 65,000.00
Building acquisition	0.00
Equipment	8,199.80
Vehicles	12,096.75
Furniture	102.15
Subtotal	<u>\$ 85,398.70</u>
<u>PARK COMMISSION</u>	
Subtotal	<u>\$ 1,410.58</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>\$224,309.79</b></u>

ANNUAL PARK COST ACCOUNTING WORKSHEET

YEAR 1985

ADMINISTRATION

Director's Salary	\$25,884.00
Longevity	150.00
Insurance, Health	3,193.68
Life	18.00
Disability	53.04
P.E.R.A. (.0425 x gross salary)	1,100.07
F.I.C.A. (.0705 x gross salary)	1,824.82
Mileage, Staff	1,016.80
Conference Travel	17.70
Registration and Conference Expense	514.77
Meal Expense	26.68
Dues	160.00
Subscriptions	35.00
Park Commission	
Per diem	930.00
Professional Services	0.00
Mileage	282.60
Travel Expense	0.00
Meal Expense	117.86
Books	116.60
Supplies, Office	714.50
Secretarial Services (clerical)	0.00
TOTAL	\$36,156.12

USHERSHIP

A vehicle traffic count was performed at Warner Lake County Park. There was some down time with the electronic scanner in the middle of August (6 days), but, on the whole, the scanner operated well. The visitor tallies are listed below.

<u>DATES</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
May 31 - September 3, 1986	16,520
September 3 - September 27, 1986	<u>1,631</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED VISITORS	18,151

An attempt was made to get an idea about usage of Mississippi River County Park during the winter. A registry was placed on the ski trail. Visitors would register on a voluntary basis. The only notice of the registry's presence was the registration box itself. Snow cover was minimal for the season allowing for only 2 weeks of skiing. The total registrants for the 1984-1985 season was 36. It is not known at this time what percentage of ski trail users register on a voluntary basis. This question will be studied in the future.

Park evaluations were returned by 17 groups reserving shelters for group activities. The overall numerical score of the park services for the season (1 being messy and 5 being spotless) was 4.47. This is the first year the park evaluations have been presented as an average score for the season's efforts.

With evaluations returned for Mississippi River County Park the score was 4.62. Of the 12 evaluations returned for Warner Lake County Park the average score was 4.37. One (1) evaluation was returned for Spring Hill County Park. It had a score of 5.00 for the park. Copies of the evaluations are available for review at the Stearns County Park Department.

The Park Department allows groups to rent and reserve park shelters and facilities. A list of user-groups, the parks they reserved, and the number of people in the group are listed in Figure 6.

RESERVATIONS 1985

<u>Mississippi</u>		<u>Warner</u>	<u>Spring Hill</u>
Sartell Brownie Tr. 107	20	SCSU Camping Class	60
Sartell Elementary	100	Cathedral High Senior Class	120
D.E.C.A.	100	Tr. 14, B.S.A.	20
Sartell Class of 1980	100	AVTI Drafting Class	24
Kaeter Reunion	30	Antique Auto Club	60
Good News Assembly	100	Schwartz Graduation	40
Creative Landscaping	40	Sufka Party	40
Hiscock Family	75	Camp Fire, Inc. (5 days)	50
KCLD Raft Race	200	Blizzard Eusters	
State Emergency Services	50	Snowmobile Club	50
Sartell Lions	---	Moran Family	30
Schmidt Labs, Inc.	100	Wieber Family	20
Koskovich Family	50	Zenner Family	100
Kunkel Family	150	Clearwater AA	75
St. Wendel's		Pack 21, B.S.A.	14
Sportsman's Club	80	Midas Party	100
Townhouse Bakery	25	Jansky Family	30
Martin Family	40	Tr. 121, Girl Scouts	20
Lucky Horseshoe Riders	---	St. Cloud Park & Rec.	12
Trana Party	100	St. Cloud Boys & Girls Club	15
Gamble Robinson	50	No. Central Labs	100
<u>20 Groups</u>	<u>1,1410 people</u>	1st Bank	60
		Landwehr Family	40
		Sunwood Inn	100
		Cathedral H.S. Class of	
		1980	100
		Pelzer Family	50
		Computer Concepts	100
		Pack 6, B.S.A.	120
		Bartley Supply	50
		St. Augusta Baseball Team	40
		Blizzard Eusters	90
		Consolidated Freigtways	75
		Peterson Family	50
		Shepers Jewelry Softball	
		Team	40
		St. Cloud Environmental	
		Council	20
		Brownie Tr. 173	14
		Tr. 106, B.S.A.	15
		<u>36 Groups</u>	<u>1,944 people</u>

- Figure 6 -

Lake Koronis Regional Park received 51 reservations for 1985, according to the caretaker. There are 3 shelters available in the park. No estimate on campground usage was provided.

Reservations 1985 cont.

Each of the groups that reserve facilities are given an evaluation form to fill out and return to the Park Department. When asked, "What kind of parks would you like to see the county provide?" A group that reserved Mississippi River County Park replied; "The parks are great, far superior to city parks-well maintained. They are the kind of parks I like."