

**Regional Recreation Open Space
in the City of St. Paul Minnesota**



PREFACE

For more than 125 years, the City of Saint Paul has provided public parklands and recreational areas for its citizens, and has long played an important role in the provision of such areas for use by the people of neighboring municipalities. The unique facilities in Como, Phalen, and Harriet Island Parks; and the spectacular views and natural areas in Battle Creek, Cherokee, Indian Mounds and Hidden Falls Parks have for many years provided significant recreational opportunities for people in the Twin Cities area.

The City of Saint Paul possesses more than 2600 acres of public park and recreational land for the use and enjoyment of all, and continues a substantial effort to acquire, develop and maintain facilities and services which will best serve the needs of the people.

D. Battle Creek Park/Fish Hatchery/Indian Mounds Park

Battle Creek, Fish Hatchery and Indian Mounds Parks are contiguous land areas which encompass most of the northern bluffs and some lowland areas between Downtown Saint Paul and Lower Afton Road, an area of 962 acres, as illustrated on Plan I.

The City and Ramsey County are coordinating development plans for these areas (646 acres of Battle Creek Park are within the Ramsey County Park System), and development plans will also be coordinated with the newly formed Ramsey-Washington Watershed District. Park Capacities are shown in Chart XII with development costs in Chart XIII. The projects listed herein reflect the cost and scope of development for the areas which are within the jurisdiction of the City of Saint Paul.

1. Battle Creek Park

Battle Creek Park was acquired through donations and purchases made between 1922 and 1945, and was originally known as Pine Coulee. It was the site of the last recorded battle between the Chippewa and Sioux Indians and because of this became known as Battle Creek. The area has been maintained in its wild, original forest condition and is utilized for hiking and picnicking. Ski jumping and snow shoeing activities occur during the winter months.

In recent years, an immense volume of storm runoff water has been emptied into Battle Creek, upstream from the park. This has resulted in vast erosion damage to the fragile slopes, vegetation, picnic grounds, parking area and hiking trails. The greatest damage has resulted from spring storms, which since the late 1960's have annually forced the closing of the park for repairs during May, June and July.

The newly formed Ramsey-Washington Watershed District proposes to solve the storm water runoff problem by ponding the water in areas upstream, thus reducing the peak volumes which have caused the majority of the damage to downstream areas.

Upon implementation of the ponding area program, Battle Creek Park must then be rehabilitated to provide safe and pleasurable recreation opportunities. This work includes rehabilitation and revegetation of eroded areas, grading, seeding, and sodding, new picnic facilities including rest rooms, tables, benches and grilles, new trails, parking area, creek bed restoration and rehabilitation of the ski jump area.

2. Fish Hatchery

The Fish Hatchery site is a lowland area which contains a small lake. Battle Creek flows into this lake, which then drains into Pig's Eye Lake and the Mississippi River. There is an area of higher ground on the Northern side of the site, which was created by a municipal landfill program in the 1960's.

The Fish Hatchery's location between Indian Mounds and Battle Creek Park makes it an ideal site for trails and picnic grounds. It is also proposed as an access point to this part of the park system by the creation of access road and parking facilities. The State of Minnesota will continue to operate it's Fish Hatchery facilities on the Northwestern part of the site.

3. Indian Mounds Park

Indian Mounds Park, acquired between 1893 and 1914, provides a panoramic view of the Mississippi River Corridor which is unparalleled in the Twin Cities area. It is the site of Indian burial mounds which date to the Hopewell Indian era, more than 3000 years ago. More than two miles of bluff area is protected from development by public ownership of this park. The park is a very popular picnic area and offers junior-level ski jumping during the winter months.

Development plans concentrate mainly upon rehabilitation of the ski jump and of eroded bluff areas, plus the provision of trails.

ANTICIPATED
USER
CAPACITIES

CHART XII

INDIAN MOUNDS PARK

TRAILS

BICYCLES 45 persons/mile

HIKING 90 persons/mile

PICNICING 10 persons/acre

*SKI-JUMP-JUNIOR

RESOURCE QUANTITY	PEAK CAPACITY	DAILY TURNOVER	PEAK USE PER DAY
1.8 Miles	81	10	810
1.8 Miles	162	5	810
5.5 Acres	55	2	110
-	-	-	-

TOTAL 298

TOTAL 1730

FISH HATCHERY PARK

TRAILS

BICYCLES 45 persons/mile

HIKING 90 person/mile

PICNICING 10 persons/acre

SNOW SHOEING:
50 persons/mile

RESOURCE QUANTITY	PEAK CAPACITY	DAILY TURNOVER	PEAK USE PER DAY
1.02 Miles	46	10	460
1.02 Miles	92	5	460
10.3 Acres	103	2	206
1.02 Miles	51	5	255

TOTAL 292

TOTAL 1381

BATTLE CREEK PARK

TRAILS

HIKING 90 persons/mile

PICNICING 10 persons/acre

SNOW SHOEING
50 persons/mile

*SKI JUMP - SENIOR

RESOURCE QUANTITY	PEAK CAPACITY	DAILY TURNOVER	PEAK USE PER DAY
1.3 Miles	117	5	585
14.4 Acres	144	2	288
.5 Mile	25	5	125
-	-	-	-

TOTAL 286

TOTAL 998

* FIGURES NOT AVAILABLE

CHART XIII

PROJECTED DEVELOPMENT COSTS

BATTLE CREEK PARK/FISH HATCHERY/INDIAN MOUNDS PARK

ITEM/LOCATION	COST	FUND SOURCE
BATTLE CREEK PARK		
Erosion rehabilitation	\$ 600,000.00	METRO
Grading/Seeding/Sodding	200,000.00	
Rest rooms	100,000.00	
Picnic tables/benches/grilles	50,000.00	
Parking area	100,000.00	
Trails	50,000.00	
Ski jump	50,000.00	
Creek bed restoration	200,000.00	
Planting	100,000.00	
Utilities	<u>50,000.00</u>	
	\$ 1,500,000.00	
FISH HATCHERY		
Grading/seeding/sodding	\$ 250,000.00	
Picnic tables/grilles/benches	20,000.00	
Trails	30,000.00	
Access and Parking	150,000.00	
Planting	<u>50,000.00</u>	
	\$ 500,000.00	
INDIAN MOUNDS PARK		
Erosion rehabilitation	\$ 150,000.00	
Grading/seeding/sodding	50,000.00	
Ski jump	15,000.00	
Picnic tables/grilles/benches	5,000.00	
Trails	30,000.00	
Planting	<u>10,000.00</u>	
	\$ 250,000.00	
TOTAL BATTLE CREEK PARK/ FISH HATCHERY/INDIAN MOUNDS PARK		\$2,250,000.00

