IV - Master Plan

Overview

The Master Plan is a direct outgrowth of the site and resource analysis and public participation process. The plan consists of four components as identified below.

Land Use Zones

Land use zones and the development program are considered in this section. Accessibility/universal design and restoration and reclamation are considered in subsequent sections.

It is important to view the master plan as dynamic, meaning it will continue to evolve and be fine-tuned as it moves through implementation steps and benefits from management experiences in the years to come.

Land use zones describe the park by functional use areas. By looking at the park from this broader perspective, one can determine the most appropriate way to use the land within the context of its natural features and development program. Based upon the site and resource analysis and field observation, a couple of distinct land use zones emerge: cultural interpretive/primary development zone and natural interpretive/preservation zone. Each of these zones offer different opportunities for cultural interpretation, education, natural resource preservation/enhancement, and outdoor recreation. Figure 4.1 illustrates the land use zones on a park map.
LAND USE ZONES

LAND USE ZONES describe the park by functional use areas to aid in determining the most appropriate use of park land within the context of its natural/cultural features and the development program. Based upon the site and resource analysis, a couple of distinct land use zones emerge:

CULTURAL INTERPRETATION / PRIMARY DEVELOPMENT ZONE

This zone is characterized by extensive quarrying activities, with more limited natural or undisturbed areas than exhibited elsewhere in the park. The concentration of quarries in this area offers considerable cultural and geologic interpretive value in a fairly limited and contiguous space. Since much of this zone has already been disturbed, it is ideally suited for the development of the major park facilities and cultural interpretive elements. The development program for this zone focuses on:
- Intensive cultural interpretation/education (indoor and outdoor).
- Infrastructure facilities, most notably the interpretive center/trailhead building, outdoor classroom, and parking lot.
- A high level of access for all levels of ability.

NATURE INTERPRETATION/PRESERVATION ZONE

This zone is characterized by extensive natural resources (i.e., woodlots, wetlands, open meadow, granite outcrops, and scattered quarries). Although cultural activities are apparent and interesting, the natural elements of this zone are the dominant features. It is ideally suited for natural interpretation/education and passive outdoor recreation. There is also great potential for ecological restoration within this zone. The development program for this zone focuses on:
- Ecological restoration and management.
- Nature interpretation/education.
- Passive outdoor recreation including: hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, climbing, and swimming.
- A level of access suitable for the setting.

GENERAL VEGETATION BOUNDARIES

The map illustrates the general boundaries of the primary vegetation communities that will be present on the site after restoration programs are implemented.

VEGETATION BOUNDARY KEY:
- OAK SAVANNA
- PRAIRIE
- WETLAND
- QUARRY

Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
Cultural Interpretation / Primary Development Zone

This zone is ideally suited for the development of the major park facilities and cultural interpretive elements.

As the map illustrates, this zone is located on the western third of the park and is characterized by extensive quarrying activities, with more limited natural or undisturbed areas than exhibited elsewhere in the park. The concentration of quarries in this area offers considerable cultural and geologic interpretive value in a fairly limited and contiguous space. Since much of this zone has already been disturbed, it is ideally suited for the development of the major park facilities and cultural interpretive elements. Its proximity to a county road and main thoroughfare also make it the desirable location for the primary access point into the park.

The development program for this zone focuses on:
- Intensive cultural interpretation/education (indoor and outdoor).
- Infrastructure facilities, most notably the interpretive center/trailhead building, outdoor classroom, and parking lot.
- A high level of access for all levels of ability (as defined in section V).

Nature Interpretation/Preservation Zone

This zone is ideally suited for natural interpretation/education and passive outdoor recreation.

This zone includes the easterly two-thirds of the park and is characterized by extensive natural resources (i.e., woodlots, wetlands, open meadow, granite outcrops, and scattered quarries). Although cultural activities are apparent and interesting, the natural elements of this zone are the dominant features. It is ideally suited for natural interpretation/education and passive outdoor recreation. Since the potential for ecological restoration is very high, the opportunity exists to restore a sustainable natural landscape for future generations to enjoy and understand.

The development program for this zone focuses on:
- Ecological restoration and management.
- Nature interpretation/education, most notably the outdoor education area and interpretive trails.
- Passive outdoor recreation, including hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing, and adult swimming.
- A level of access suitable for the setting (as defined in section V).

Development Program

"Leave the park natural and beautiful. Don’t wreck it by over developing."
"The sense of discovery is the great charm of the site. Don’t lose that."
-- Comments made during a public meeting that reflect public sentiment.

The development program defines the uses of the park and appropriate facilities to support those uses. The program is an outgrowth of extensive public participation in the design process coupled with the innate character of the site. Figure 4.2 illustrates the master plan for the park and identifies the primary development components. A description of each of these components follows.

As stated in the previous section, the challenge with a unique park such as this is to exercise due restraint. The forthcoming development program seeks to achieve a balance between providing facilities and amenities that allow the public to enjoy the park without compromising its natural and cultural character.
Figure 4.2 - Quarry Park and Nature Preserve Master Plan.
MASTER PLAN LEGEND

- ACCESS ROUTE HIKING TRAIL
- RECREATION HIKING TRAIL
  (TRADITIONAL-STYLE CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING ON SELECTED LOOP TRAILS)
- MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
  (SKATE-STYLE CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING)
- OVERLOOK/OBSERVATION POINT
- SAVANNA/WOODLOT AREA
- PRAIRIE AREA
- WETLAND
- GROUT PILE/ROCK OUTCROP

PROGRAM LISTING

A - FENCE ENCLOSURE
B - PRIMARY SITE ACCESS
C - MAIN ENTRANCE / CONTACT STATION
D - ENTRANCE DRIVE (ONE WAY)
E - PARKING LOT
F - INTERPRETIVE CENTER / TRAILHEAD BUILDING
G - OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER
H - MOUNTAIN BIKE TECHNICAL ZONE
I - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES (PREFERRED LOCATION)
J - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES (SECONDARY LOCATION)
K - ROCK CLIMBING AREA
L - ICE SKATING
M - OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
N - GROUP CAMP AREA
O - RESTROOM
P - SWIMMING QUARRY
Q - PICNIC AREA
R - BOARDWALK
S - SECONDARY ENTRANCE
T - HISTORIC MINING SCENE
U - ACCESSIBLE OBSERVATION POINT

NORTH

SCALE

0 200 400 800'
Fence Enclosure

The uniqueness of the park's setting brings with it issues of access control and user safety. Installing perimeter fencing as a condition of property acquisition was undertaken by the county to ensure control of the site until it is open to the public. Maintaining control of access and hours of use will continue to be important once it is developed for a number of reasons:

- User safety -- the park is unique and therefore requires certain precautions to ensure user safety.
- Protect environment -- the cultural, geological, and natural features of the site are sensitive to human impact and require careful management and control of access.
- Protect wildlife -- domesticated animals are a significant threat to the wildlife of the site and therefore must be kept out of the park.

For most of its length, the fence will be chainlink hidden amongst the natural landscape. The fencing near the primary and secondary access points will be enhanced to improve its visual appeal at the key points of contact with the visitor.

Site Access

In line with the reasons for fencing the park, vehicle and pedestrian access will also be controlled. Vehicles will enter the park off of County Road 137 in the northwest corner of the site. With the exception of emergency vehicle access, this will be the only vehicle access point.

Pedestrian access will be limited as well to control use of the park. The primary point of access will be through the main entrance, either by vehicle or trail connection. A secondary access will be provided on the northeast corner of the site. This access will be used primarily for group access (on a permit basis) to the outdoor education area. Emergency vehicle access will be provided at this location, as well.

As the first point of contact with visitors, the access points will be designed to set the stage for what the user should expect within the park.

Main Entrance/Contact Station

As the first visual cue, the main entrance creates a sense of entry and expectation for the visitor. Since it will leave a lasting impression, the design of the entrance will be characteristic of features and materials exhibited throughout the park.

Figure 4.3 - Character sketch of main entrance.
Entrance Drive and Parking Facilities

The entrance drive brings visitors into the park and begins to expose them to its natural and cultural character. For the less ambulatory or those with limited time, the drive itself serves as a means to experience some of what the park has to offer.

The contact station regulates levels of use, monitors traffic flow, orients visitors to the resources within the park, and handles reservations. If fees are charged, the contact station serves as the point to collect them.

Given its location, the architectural style of the contact station will set the tone for the architecture throughout the site. Materials that reflect the natural and cultural history of the site will be used for construction.

The entrance drive brings visitors into the park and begins to expose them to its natural and cultural character. For the less ambulatory or those with limited time, the drive itself serves as a means to experience some of what the park has to offer. To preserve the natural character of the area, the entrance drive will be integrated with the surrounding landscape through:

- A curvilinear alignment that responds to the natural grades and elevations.
- A one-way system that limits road width, hard-surfacing, and contact with other vehicles.
- Restoration of the native landscapes (i.e., prairie/oak savanna) along the road.

The entrance drive will include a drop-off zone and turn-around area for buses. Bus parking will be provided within the parking lot.

Similar to the entrance drive, the parking lot will be integrated into the natural landscape. Under the initial phase of development, the lot will accommodate about 200 cars, plus parking for buses. The intent is to balance the need for adequate parking against the desire to prevent overuse of the park. Additional parking of up to 100 spaces could be provided if it is determined necessary in the future.

The shape of the parking lot is shown as curvilinear to soften its lines and impact on the landscape. Spaces between bays will allow for naturalized plantings to be placed between hard-surfaced areas. Topographic changes, moderate berming, placement of grout piles, and landscaping will be used to minimize the visual impact of the parking lot as one enters the park or views it from off-site.

Figure 4.4 - Character sketch of entrance drive and parking lot.
Interpretive Center / Trailhead Building

This building is a key feature and serves a number of programmatic functions:

- Cultural interpretation/education -- exhibit/gallery space focusing on granite quarrying industry and its impact on the region and park.
- Natural interpretation/education -- exhibit/gallery space focusing on the natural characteristics of the site and the forces that shaped the land. This includes geology, soils, plant communities, hydrology, and wildlife.
- Park headquarters -- space for park management and administrative staff. Control center for all park activities.
- General use areas -- space for meetings and classroom activities, staging area, and group/individual gatherings.
- Rental office -- for cross-county skis and skates.
- Artist-in-residence -- space for stone sculptors to create and exhibit their work. An outside area will be provided for ice sculptors in the winter months.

Anticipated space requirements for the stated programs are listed in the table on the following page.

The building will be constructed of materials that reflect the natural and cultural history of the site. It will also be blended into the natural vegetation, quarries, and grout piles. Architectural style has yet to be fully explored.

As shown on the master plan, the building will be located in proximity to the outdoor interpretive area. This allows for a direct transition into the outdoor cultural interpretive exhibit and amphitheater and lecture/group gathering area. Taken together, these facilities and outdoor spaces are the heart of the cultural interpretive program. They also serve as the jumping off point for the natural interpretation areas found in the remainder of the park.

This location for the building will also minimize its encroachment into the core of the park. This is desirable in that the building relates more to a cultural setting than it does to a natural one. Once a visitor leaves the cultural setting behind, the building will fade into the background and not be visible from within the natural interpretive zone.

Figure 4.5 - Character sketch of interpretive center/trailhead building and controlled outdoor interpretive area.
### Interpretive center/trailhead building space criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space</th>
<th>Functional Use</th>
<th>Square Footage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry / lobby / reception area / coat room</td>
<td>• Visitor control/orientation and information desk</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Access to gift shop, refreshments/vending area, and restrooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Public telephones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cash register and small storage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Coat room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallery / cultural interpretive space</td>
<td>• Granite industry interpretation</td>
<td>3,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ecologic / ecotone interpretation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Geologic / hydrologic interpretation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Theater (for video seating of 15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting rooms / classrooms / art studio</td>
<td>• Educational programs – especially October through April</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Tour group orientation / discussions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Lectures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Receptions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Demonstrations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Art studio – &quot;artist in residence&quot; theme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lounge / informal gathering space</td>
<td>• &quot;Fireplace room&quot; for socializing</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Art gallery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Visitor waiting area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office space</td>
<td>• Park director’s office</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Visitor services office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Volunteer and staff lounge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Education office / storage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments / vending</td>
<td>• Drink refreshments / pre-packaged foods / popcorn</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Vending machines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>• General public</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General storage</td>
<td>• General supplies</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Chairs and tables</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitor / mechanical room</td>
<td>• Utility use</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift shop</td>
<td>• General gifts and souvenir sales / art</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warming room / rental office</td>
<td>• Warming room for winter activities</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ski and skate rental.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Square Footage</td>
<td>13,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Controlled Outdoor Interpretive Area

... offers visitors a chance to witness the cultural and natural forces that shaped the park on a first hand basis. The cultural scene will represent a portal in time, with the centerpiece of this interpretive area being the re-creation of a period mining scene.

This area is programmatically and physically linked to the interpretive center and offers visitors a chance to witness the cultural events and natural forces that shaped the park on a first hand basis. The cultural scene will represent a portal in time, with the centerpiece of this interpretive area being the re-creation of a period mining scene. It will include a quarry mining operation as it was when the site was active decades ago. The techniques and equipment used to extract granite from the earth will be on exhibit in conjunction with a complete interpretive program.

Use of the interpretive area will be controlled through various natural barriers (grout piles, quarry faces, vegetation, etc.) and the location of walkways. Controlled, in this sense, means limiting the number of people within this relatively confined space at any one time to preserve its integrity.

Notable features include:
- Period quarry mining scene, with mining equipment, structures, and derricks salvaged from local sources.
- Trails, catwalks (suspended or elevated walkways), and observation platforms.
- Dry quarry - allowing for observation of an open quarry.
- Wet quarry -- filled through natural hydrologic processes.
- Extensive interpretive program -- including signage and diagrams.
- Hands-on exhibit -- allows visitors to participate in various quarrying jobs, such as shaping large pieces of granite.

In winter, the water-filled quarry will be turned into a protected ice skating area in a very unique and intimate setting.

Figure 4.6 - Master plan of controlled outdoor interpretive area.
Outdoor Amphitheater and Lecture/Group Gathering Area

Although the space will allow for a group of a couple of hundred people, the amphitheater will be designed to accommodate much smaller groups without losing the sense of intimacy prevalent throughout the park.

This area is another prominent outdoor feature closely linked to the interpretive center/trailhead building. Sized for up to 200 people, the amphitheater will provide outdoor space for:

- Lectures and discussions.
- Small events and social gatherings.
- Amphitheater for small group performances.

As with other site features, the facility will be constructed of natural materials and blended into the vegetation, quarries, and grout piles. Architectural style will reflect that of the interpretive center/trailhead building. Although the space will allow for a group of a couple of hundred people, the amphitheater will be designed to accommodate much smaller groups without losing the sense of intimacy prevalent throughout the park.

Notable features:

- Lecture stand/stage -- unobtrusive and functional.
- Perimeter seating -- depressed and integrated into surrounding landscape.
  - Up to 200 people.
- Accessible seating/walkway area.
- Bonfire pit -- centrally located. Can be covered when not in use. Ample room surrounding pit for variably-sized groups to gather.

Figure 4.7 - Character image of outdoor amphitheater and lecture/group gathering area.

General Outdoor Interpretive Area

The atmosphere will be more open than the controlled cultural area so visitors can observe and enjoy this area of the park in a relaxed, self-directed manner. The interpretive program will be continued through this area.

This area will exhibit a wide variety of past quarrying activities and natural features, which includes quarries, granite outcrops, and visible fault lines. Many of the features found in the controlled outdoor interpretive area will be exhibited here as well, only with a wider variety of shapes and sizes. The atmosphere will be more open than the controlled cultural area so visitors can observe and enjoy this area of the park in a relaxed, self-directed manner. The interpretive program will be continued through this area.

A high level of accessibility will be provided throughout this area. (See section V for additional information.)
Notable features:
- Seven quarries of varying shapes and sizes.
- Extensive and accessible trail system -- laid out in the field with participation by a variety of user groups.
- Extensive interpretive program.
- Accessible observation point on top of existing grout pile -- providing a panoramic view of the park, including the restored prairie nature area.
- Bench locations and overlooks, ranging from intimate locations alongside a quarry to overlooks.
- Family swimming quarry.

Figure 4.8 provides a plan view of this area. Figure 4.9 illustrates the general character of the area.

Figure 4.8 - Plan view of general outdoor interpretive area.
Figure 4.9 - Photographs of elements within the general outdoor interpretive area.

Aerial view of general outdoor interpretive area.

View of quarry face illustrating cultural impact and natural erosive forces.

View across one of the quarries illustrating geological features. On the left is a basalt dike. Bottom is a granite outcrop. Sheared quarry faces are in the background.

Each of the quarries has its own unique character and geological features, making the area ideal for an outdoor interpretive area.

Part of a wooden derrick is a remnant of a bygone era.
Hiking Trails

Hiking trails will follow alignments that respond to, rather than change, the natural contours and features of the site. Trail location will also focus on enhancing the user’s experience through sequential and varied experiences, which will range from intimate settings to broad vistas.

In the natural interpretation zone, the trails will be the primary development element. Of all the trail types, hiking trails will be the most extensive, totaling almost four miles in length. They will serve as an outdoor recreation amenity and provide visitor access to key site/interpretive features.

Hiking trails will follow alignments that respond to, rather than change, the natural contours and features of the site. Trail location will also focus on enhancing the user’s experience through sequential and varied experiences, which will range from intimate settings to broad vistas.

Although the trail system will be fairly extensive, physical and visual overlap with other trail types will be kept to a minimum. This will provide the visitor with a sense of solitude that is in keeping with the character of the park. Trail alignment will be established in the field with participation by a variety of user groups. In addition, the principles of universal access (as defined in Section V) will be applied to all hiking trails.

All of the hiking trails will be kept as natural as possible. Trail treads will be graded and stabilized only as necessary to achieve accessibility objectives and control erosion.
Overlooks and Observation Points

The grout piles adjacent to the quarries are one of the unique features of the park. Because of the way they were stacked, a number of these piles will be used for overlools and observation points, which provide dramatic views and vistas of the park.

Figure 4.12 - Photograph of typical grout pile.

As figure 4.13 illustrates, access to the overlooks will follow existing routes up to the top. Most of these routes were created during the grout pile stacking operation. Others were created by hikers and mountain bikers prior to the site being acquired for a park. Visitors will be protected along the access route and at the top by some form of barrier, such as a handrail made out of materials reminiscent of the mining era. The barriers will be designed to be unobtrusive, yet protect the visitor.

The master plan identifies a number of overlools of varying character. Where appropriate, the names given to them over the years will be used to enhance the sense of history and folklore (i.e., "Angels Landing").
Mountain Bike Trail and Technical Zone

The master plan calls for a one-way mountain bike trail loop trail on the perimeter of the site. Total length will be about 2.2 miles. Actual trail alignment will be established in the field with participation by the user groups.

Mountain biking has been a very popular activity on this site since the sport became popular in the 1980s, although the level of activity has been curtailed in recent years by closing the property to general public use. In spite of this, support for this activity remains high.

Given its history on this site and popularity, mountain biking will continue to be accommodated within the park. It will, however, have to be closely monitored by park staff to ensure that the impact to the environment and other uses stay within the bounds of park policy.

The master plan calls for a one-way mountain bike trail loop trail on the perimeter of the site. Total length will be about 2.2 miles. It will be completely separated from the hiking trail and interpretive center to eliminate overlap and the potential for conflict. In certain areas, wetlands and poor soils will have to be skirted or crossed by a boardwalk. Actual trail alignment will be established in the field with participation by the user groups. This is of particular importance in this instance because the mountain bike trail must appeal to the user group in order to compel them to stay on them.

A "technical zone" will be provided in the far southeast corner of the site. This zone will allow riders more flexibility for developing their technical riding skills on exposed rock outcrops. The routes in this area will also be designed with participation by the user group. Figure 4.14 illustrates the type of terrain that the trail will traverse. For the most part, the trail will have a compacted earth tread, with soil stabilization being used in areas susceptible to erosion.

Swimming Facilities

The unique characteristics of the quarries have made swimming a major attraction over the years. It remains a popular activity with the public and therefore an important program element. But its uniqueness also brings with it inherent risks. Under these circumstances, maintaining strict control of where and when swimming takes place will be important to ensuring public safety.

In consideration of control, monitoring, and maintaining a balance with other park uses, swimming will be limited to two specific quarries: Quarry #2 and Quarry #11.
Swimming will be limited to Quarry #11 during the initial stage of development for a couple of reasons:
- Introduce the activity to the public in a controlled manner.
- Allow park staff to monitor use and public reaction and to develop policies that will continue to ensure user safety.

In keeping with public sentiment, swimming will remain informal and self-directed. Appropriate measures will be taken to inform the user of the rules and characteristics of the specific quarry. Development will be limited to information signage, limited access improvement, and safety precautions and procedures. No formal swimming facilities (i.e., beach, beach-house, etc.) will be provided.

Under this informal approach, an individual will be responsible for their own safety. At least initially, children will have to be accompanied by an adult at all times. It will also have to be made clear to the public that the long-term viability of swimming in the quarries will be based upon their responsible use. In addition, appropriate and strict management by the park staff to minimize risks will be required.

**SCUBA Facilities**

*The uniqueness of the dive setting, clarity of the water, depth, training opportunities, and ease of access make it a desirable location for the local divers.*

SCUBA (i.e., underwater diving) has become a popular activity in the park in recent years. The uniqueness of the dive setting, clarity of the water, depth, training opportunities, and ease of access make it a desirable location for the local divers.

Initially, SCUBA will be allowed in a limited number of quarries. Quarry selection will be determined by park staff and the local SCUBA organization. The activity will be strictly controlled through permits issued in advance (see also VII). Eventually, more quarries will be opened for SCUBA activity.

Facilities required for SCUBA are minimal. A relatively small, designated space near the interpretive center/trailhead building will provide a staging area on dive days. Essentially, the service access drive will serve this purpose. In addition, a "training quarry" will be designated. The only notable modifications to that quarry will be adding access points and a dive platform at a suitable depth for training. Both of these will be constructed using granite.
Figure 4.16 - Character sketch of SCUBA activity.

Figure 4.17 - Photograph of rock climbing wall.

Rock Climbing Facilities

It is expected that the rock climbing areas will primarily serve the local climbers.

Like SCUBA, rock climbing has become a popular activity in the park in recent years. The master plan identifies a number of locations for this activity. The prime rock face is located in the outdoor cultural interpretive area.

It is expected that the rock climbing areas will primarily serve the local climbers. The character and height of the rock faces are not expected to have a major draw outside the region. For safety, the activity will be strictly controlled through permits issued at the park service center (see also ....).

Facilities required for rock climbing are minimal. The only notable modifications within the designated climbing areas will be tie-off points for belaying. These will be constructed using granite rocks and steel anchors reminiscent of the quarry mining days.

rocks and slabs in keeping with the surrounding landscape. Basically, these modifications will be undetectable to the average park user.
Expanding use of the park throughout the winter months was considered very important during public discussion. Cross-country skiing was identified as one of the primary ways to accomplish this objective.

Traditional style skiing will be accommodated on some of the hiking trails. Overall length of the one-way loop system will be over two miles. Since it follows the alignment of the hiking trail, physical and visual overlap with the skate-ski trail will be minimized. Trail alignment will be established in the field with participation by the user groups.

Whether the trail is one or two tracks will be determined in the field with input from the user group and park staff. A combination of single and double track is a possibility. In as much as possible, the trail will be placed on mowed grass or earth trails (as opposed to packed gravel and other hard surfaces) to help prevent early meltdown.

Lighting will be provided along the trail to expand the time of use. The system selected will be designed to be as unobtrusive as possible and in keeping with the character of the site. Underground wiring will be used where feasible.

In addition to traditional cross-country skiing, skate-style skiing will also be accommodated. The corridor established for mountain biking will be used for this purpose. This trail will also be a one-way system, with a total length of over two miles. It will be completely separated from the traditional ski trail, with the exception of the boardwalk through the wetlands. As with all the other trails, actual trail alignment will be established in the field with participation by the user groups.

To the extent possible, the trail will be placed on mowed grass or earth trails (as opposed to packed gravel and other hard surfaces) to help prevent early meltdown. As with the traditional-style trail, this trail will also have lighting.

Figure 4.18 - Photograph of cross-country skiing setting.
Ice Skating

As with skiing, ice skating will expand the use of the park during the winter months. As shown on the master plan, skating will be on quarries #18 and #19, which are within the outdoor cultural interpretive area and directly adjacent to the interpretive center/trailhead building and outdoor amphitheater. The setting is unique, intimate, and secluded. Use of the rink will be controlled through the interpretive center. Given its relatively small size, reservations and limitations on use may be required. Nonetheless, the appeal of the area is expected to make this a popular winter outing.

Figure 4.19 - Photograph of setting for ice skating.

Fishing

Assuming fish stocking is successful, fishing will be promoted on a catch and release basis.

As defined in section II, there is some potential for establishing fishing in a number of the quarries. To date, no specific quarries have been identified as being the most suitable for this purpose. Assuming fish stocking is successful, fishing will be promoted on a catch and release basis.

Facilities required for fishing are relatively minimal. Small, multipurpose decks will be constructed in prime locations. These decks will provide a safe and stable area from which to fish, as well as sit and observe. They will be constructed using slabs of granite and have hand rails of similar style to those used in other areas of the park. A bench will also be provided.

Figure 4.20 - Character sketch of fishing/observation deck.
Outdoor Classroom

The outdoor classroom will serve as a staging area for nature walks, education programs, and research initiatives. It will function in conjunction with the interpretive center and outdoor education area. Although architectural style has yet to be explored, the structure will likely be open on one end and closed on the other to allow for it to be used during poor weather or for classroom activities. Electricity and audio-visual aids will be included. A restroom will also be provided, either as part of the classroom structure or as a separate facility. In line with the interpretive center, the classroom will be constructed of materials that reflect the natural and cultural history of the site.

Group Camp Area

A group camp is proposed south of the general outdoor interpretive area. Use will be on a strictly controlled and limited basis. Facilities will be limited to fire rings and tent sites, with minimal disruption to the natural setting. It will be located near the outdoor classroom to avoid duplication of restroom facilities. Vegetation and topographic changes will be used to separate the facility from the trails and other site features.

Restrooms

Permanent restrooms will be available in three locations:

- Inside the interpretive center/trailhead building
- In conjunction with the outdoor classroom
- A stand-alone building adjacent to the secondary access.

These three locations provide a relatively even distribution of restrooms within the park without being excessive and intrusive. Given the setting, providing portable-style restrooms is not desirable.

As with the other buildings, the stand-alone building will be constructed of materials that reflect the natural and cultural history.

Operations and Maintenance Facilities

A park of this size will require a fair amount of ongoing maintenance and general upkeep. Moving the operations and maintenance function from its current location to the site will improve efficiency and control by minimizing downtime and having direct access to maintenance equipment.

Space requirements include:

- 3,500 square feet of heated space for garage, woodshop, supplies, and small staff office.
- 2,500 square feet of cold storage garage.
- 3,000 square feet for outside storage.

As with the other buildings, these buildings will be constructed of materials that reflect the natural and cultural history.

Ideally, the operations and maintenance facilities should be located near, but not within, the primary development zone.

Ideally, the operations and maintenance facilities should be located near, but not within, the primary development zone. As shown on the master plan, the triangle property on the northwest corner of the site would be ideally suited for this use. A service road would be required from this location up to the interpretive center area.
Picnicking

Limited picnicking facilities will be provided between the interpretive center and parking lot. These facilities will be geared toward families and small groups waiting to enter the park or taking a break from touring the site. Picnic facilities will not be provided in the interior of the park, although visitors can have an informal picnic anywhere within the park.

Picnic facilities near the interpretive center will include a number of small shelters and scattered picnic tables. Each of the amenities will be blended into the natural surroundings and grout piles to minimize their visual impact.

Horse-Drawn Sled

The idea of a horse-drawn sled trail for winter use surfaced during public discussion. As with the other winter activities, it was seen as a way to expand the use of the park during the winter months. This use could be incorporated on one of the hiking trails not being used for cross-county skiing. A separate trail for this purpose is not being proposed.

Miscellaneous Site Amenities

All site amenities will be in character of the setting and reflect the architectural style used for building and structures when appropriate. The following identifies some of the more common site amenities:

- Interpretive signage -- will be extensive throughout the site. The interpretive program will be developed through a partnership between local schools, colleges, environmental organizations, and park staff
- Benches
- Trash receptacles
- Bike racks
- Boardwalks -- will be designed to blend into the natural setting. Natural materials will be used. Long-term durability will also be considered.

Future Expansion

Several opportunities for future expansion were considered during the design process. Figure 4.21 identifies these areas.

The expansion area on the northwest corner of the site is of particular importance in that it is adjacent to the front door of the park. Acquiring this property would protect the viewsheet that is so important as one enters the park. In addition, a portion of this property provides a desirable location for the maintenance and operations facilities.

South of the current park property lies considerable acreage that remains largely undeveloped. Characteristically, it resembles the natural areas of the existing park property, making it very suitable and desirable for expansion. Acquiring additional property to the south has a number of potential benefits:

- A larger ecosystem would improve the diversity and extent of the plant communities found within the park. Also reduces the risk of environmental factors (i.e., diseases) from devastating the site.
- Reduces over-use problems (i.e., erosion, vegetation degradation, etc.) by spreading out visitors across a larger area. This will be increasingly important as the regional population continues to grow, as anticipated.
- Helps maintain the integrity of the park. Without a doubt, the park will have a considerable draw because of its unique character. By expanding the park, the "essence of the place" can be preserved without resorting to other means to control the level of park use, like limiting daily capacity.
Figure 4.21 - Areas identified for future expansion.

POTENTIAL EXPANSION AREA ALONG NORTH PROPERTY LINE
- 20 ACRES
- DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS REFLECTIVE OF EXISTING SITE
- PROTECTS VIEWSHED OF PARK
- POTENTIAL LOCATION FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

POTENTIAL EXPANSION AREA SOUTH OF EXISTING SITE
- 400 ACRES
- DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS REFLECTIVE OF EXISTING SITE
- DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WOULD FOCUS ON PRESERVATION AND EXTENDING TRAIL SYSTEMS