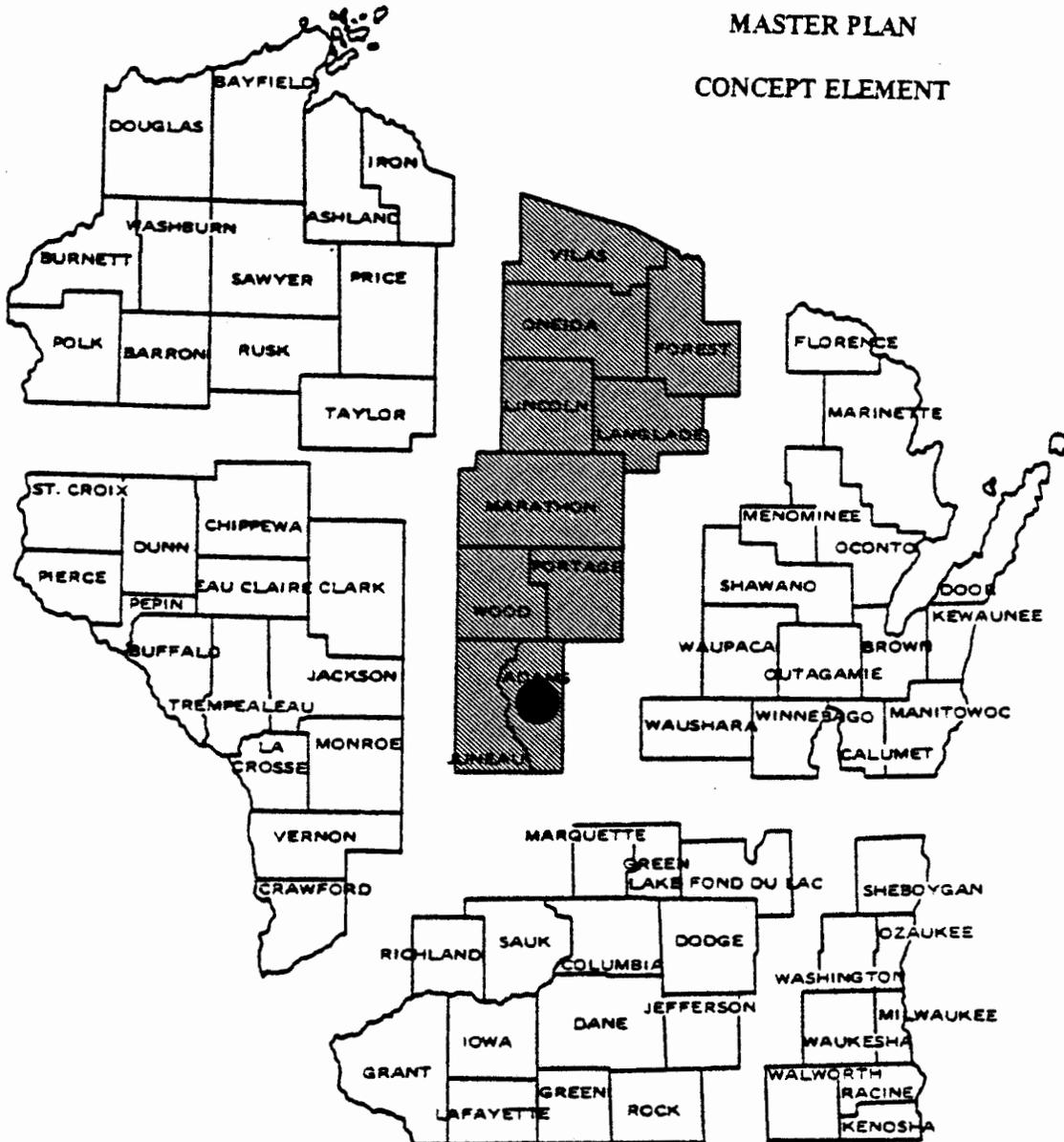


ROCHE A CRI STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

- Leader: Robert H. Smith - Area Supervisor  
Nina M. Stensberg - Forester  
Walt W. Lueck - Park Manager  
Scot J. Ironside - Fish Manager  
Jim R. Keir - Wildlife Manager  
Lyle W. Hannahs - Staff Specialist (Recreation and Planning)

Approved By: CDT [Signature]  
Date: 5/9/83



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## SECTION I

### ACTION

#### A. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

##### Goal

To make available a state park to serve the recreational and educational needs of the park visitor while preserving the petroglyphs and natural values.

##### Objectives

1. To provide facilities to accommodate approximately 50,000 visitations annually for activities to include camping, picnicking and hiking
  - a. Forty-five campsites to serve 18,000 campers.
  - b. Six acres of picnic area to be used by 35,000 day users.
  - c. Four miles of hiking trail to be hiked by 5,000 park users.
2. To investigate methods of preserving the petroglyphs by using new technology to retard weathering as it becomes available.
3. Establish and maintain approximately 10 acres of scientific area which would preserve and protect the top of the Roche-A-Cri Mound.

##### Additional Benefits

Other benefits which occur but do not necessarily require specific management actions include but are not limited to berry and mushroom picking, wildlife observation, nature study, hiking other than on trails, ski-touring, limited fishing opportunities and photography.

#### B. RECOMMENDED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The management and development alternatives selected for Roche-A-Cri State Park are: improving the day use facilities, reducing the picnic area acreage, establishing a prairie and managing the vegetative cover to emphasize scenic beauty with consideration for wildlife habitat, and timber values.

All areas proposed for development would be examined for the presence of endangered and threatened wild animals and wild plants. If listed species are found, development would be suspended until the District endangered and nongame species coordinator is consulted, the site evaluated, and appropriate protective measures taken.

Since a complete biological inventory of the entire park does not exist, it is recommended an inventory be conducted as funds permit or through volunteer efforts by the university system.

##### 1. Development (Fig. 3)

New facilities would include a picnic shelter, a two-unit pit-type toilet building in the picnic area, additional facilities for the handicapped, additional playground equipment and interpretive displays at the site of the petroglyphs. Some additional interpretive signs could be erected along the existing hiking trail.

Support facilities would include a new office/visitor entrance station. The park entrance will have to be redesigned to accommodate the proposed building and to allow smooth flow of the traffic. An additional well with hand pump should be provided in the campground to meet Division of Health regulations on spacing of sources of drinking water.

The existing 45-unit campground would remain, with the oldest set of pit toilets being replaced. Three existing "drive-in" sites would be converted to walk-in sites.

Road resurfacing would be scheduled for the park road system as needed.

Erosion on Carter Creek within the park boundary would be corrected.

Development of new facilities including pit toilets, picnic shelter, office building and playground equipment, as well as improvements to the day use areas, roads, hiking trails and stream bank erosion control is estimated to cost \$200,000 and will take at least ten years to complete. Completion will be dependent upon available funds and statewide priorities. Additional and/or up-to-date justification will also be required.

## 2. Management

### a. Vegetative (Fig. 4)

The overall vegetative management program will be directed toward maintaining and enhancing aesthetics without sacrificing public safety.

The small 10-acre aspen stand in the northwest portion of the park will be regenerated through a clear cut. This is a recommended silvicultural practice to perpetuate aspen which is a sun-loving, short-lived species.

Both red pine plantations will be periodically thinned to maintain maximum growth and develop a natural appearance by breaking up the rows.

Jack pine and oak types are slowly converting to white pine by natural seeding. Cutting in these stands will be designed to favor the white pine. While the oak is of poor quality because of the sandy soils, some will remain as a component to nurse the white pine, provide species variety and produce mast for wildlife. Where natural regeneration is inadequate, some hand planting of white and red pine will be necessary.

Central hardwoods along the creek corridor will be managed on an individual or group selection basis to maximize aesthetics and wildlife habitat.

In the Intensive Recreation Development areas, dead, dying and other high risk storm damaged trees will be removed on an individual basis. Longer-lived species of trees will be planted and some shrub planting may be carried out.

Hazardous storm damaged trees in the Extensive Recreation Areas will be removed only along trails and roads where visitor safety and aesthetics are the primary objective.

Six acres of an existing field in the southeast corner of the park will be established and maintained as prairie. Once established, the prairie will be maintained by prescribed burning.

### b. Facility

Management of the park will continue to be the responsibility of the Forest Ranger-Superintendent stationed at the Friendship sub-area office.

The petroglyphs will continue to receive protection as well as made viewable to the park visitor. Rubbings or exact-replica drawings of the petroglyphs will be made and displayed at the site so park visitors can better visualize and appreciate them. New techniques will continue to be explored for retarding the weathering process which is slowly wearing away the carvings.

The 17-acre picnic area will be reduced to six acres. The number of picnic tables (30) and grills (11) would remain the same. The concentration of users at one time would still allow for a pleasant, rustic picnicking experience. Any part of the nine acres that are no longer to be used could be restored to meet increases in picnicking demand if necessary.

The top of the Roche-A-Cri Mound, an area of about 10 acres, will be classified as scientific area with the understanding that climbing of the Mound by permit will continue. If the Department decides in the future to construct a walkway to the Mound top and one or more observation platforms a review of the scientific area designation will be necessary.

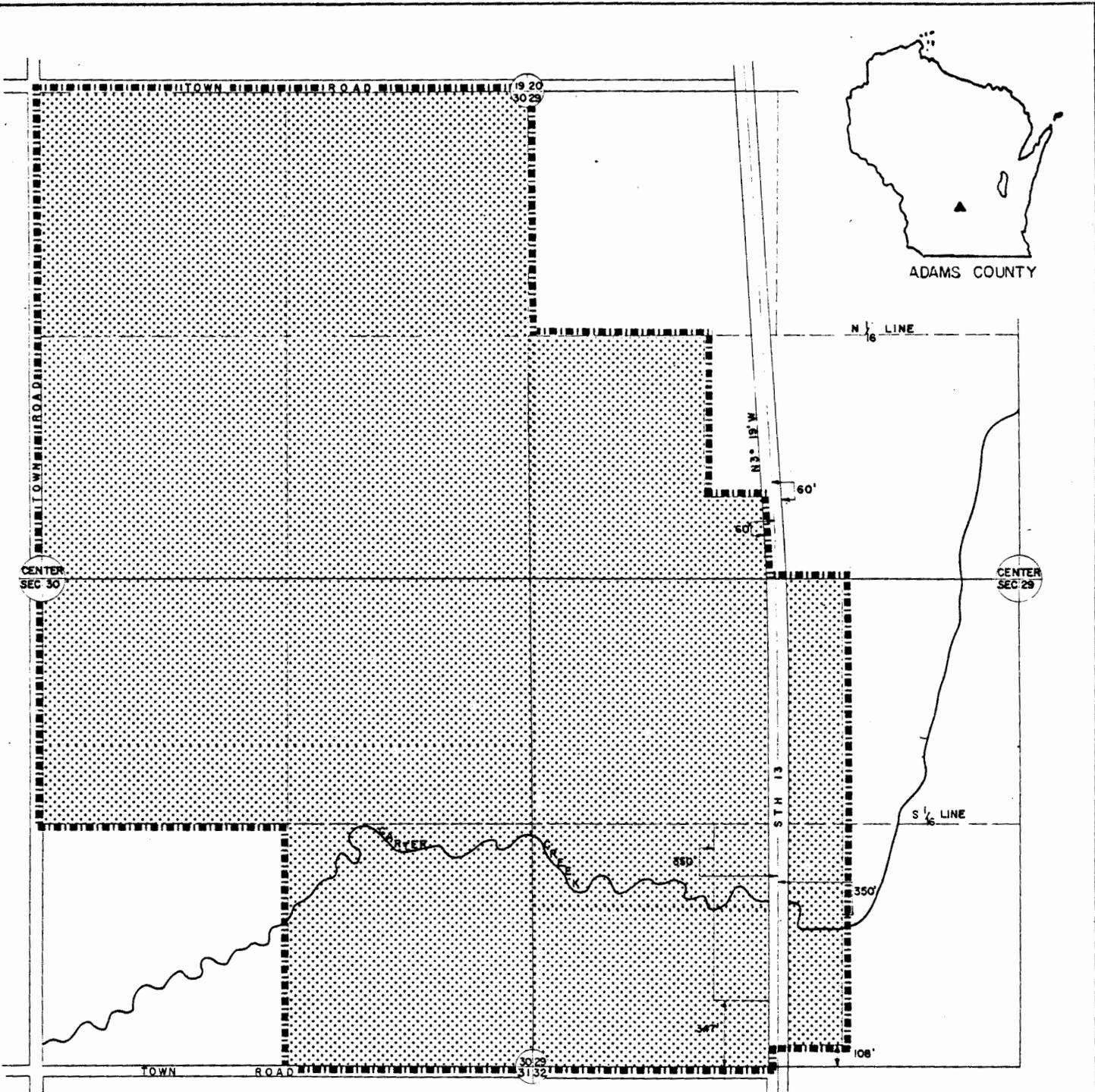
Twelve acres in the southeast corner of the park (an existing field) would be used as a fire control equipment training area.

## 3. Land Acquisition

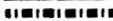
State ownership totals 411.06 acres. Since all lands within the park boundary are in state ownership and no boundary revisions are recommended acquisition objectives have been achieved.







LEGEND

STATE OWNED   
 PROPOSED BOUNDARY 

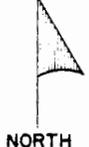


FIGURE 2

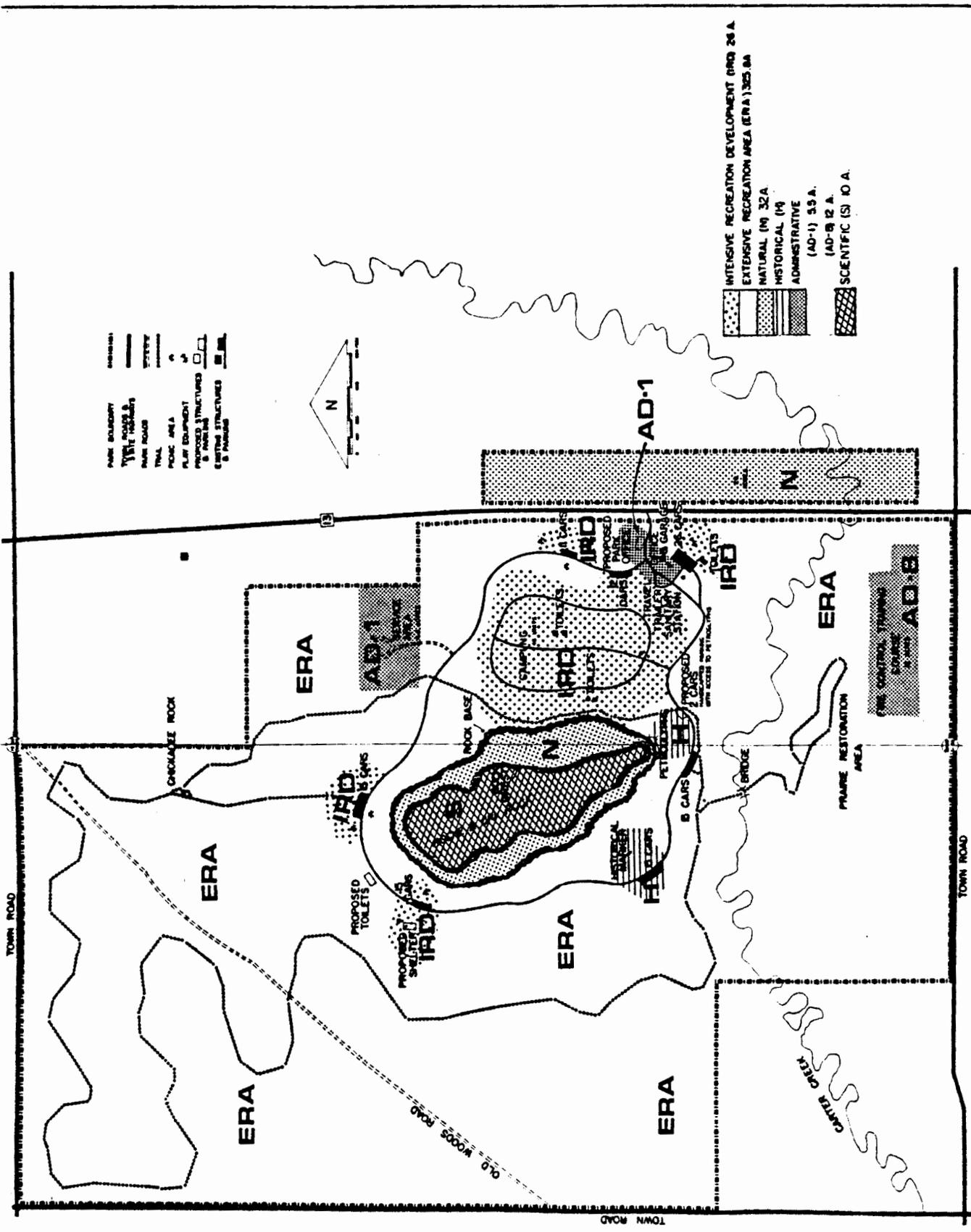
REVISED 11-79 BY J. GOMOLL PROJECT 9470

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

DESIGNED BY: *Robert R. Enger* 11/67  
 PROPERTY MANAGER  
 CHECKED BY: *John A. Kocum* 4/4/62  
 AREA SUPERVISOR  
 DRAWN BY: *John A. Kocum* 4/4/62  
 DIRECTOR

LAND ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP MAP  
 ROCHE A CRI ROADSIDE PARK  
 designed by: \_\_\_\_\_ drawing number: CA-8  
 drawn by: \_\_\_\_\_





- LEGEND**
- PARK BOUNDARY
  - TRAIL
  - PICNIC AREA
  - PLAY EQUIPMENT
  - PROPOSED STRUCTURES & PARKING
  - EXISTING STRUCTURES & PARKING



- LEGEND**
- INTENSIVE RECREATION DEVELOPMENT (IRD) 20 A
  - EXTENSIVE RECREATION AREA (ERA) 1305 8A
  - NATURAL (N) 32A
  - HISTORICAL (H) 14
  - ADMINISTRATIVE (AD-1) 55 A
  - (AD-2) 12 A
  - SCIENTIFIC (S) 10 A

VISSAGE CONSULTANTS OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 PLANNING AND DESIGN

**Roche A Cri Roadside Park  
 Development Plan**

DATE: 1/1/87

FIGURE 3



# VEGETATIVE COVER MAP

ROCHE-A-CRI  
STATE PARK

13

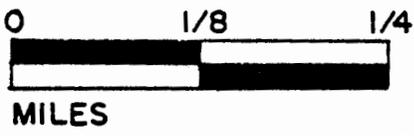
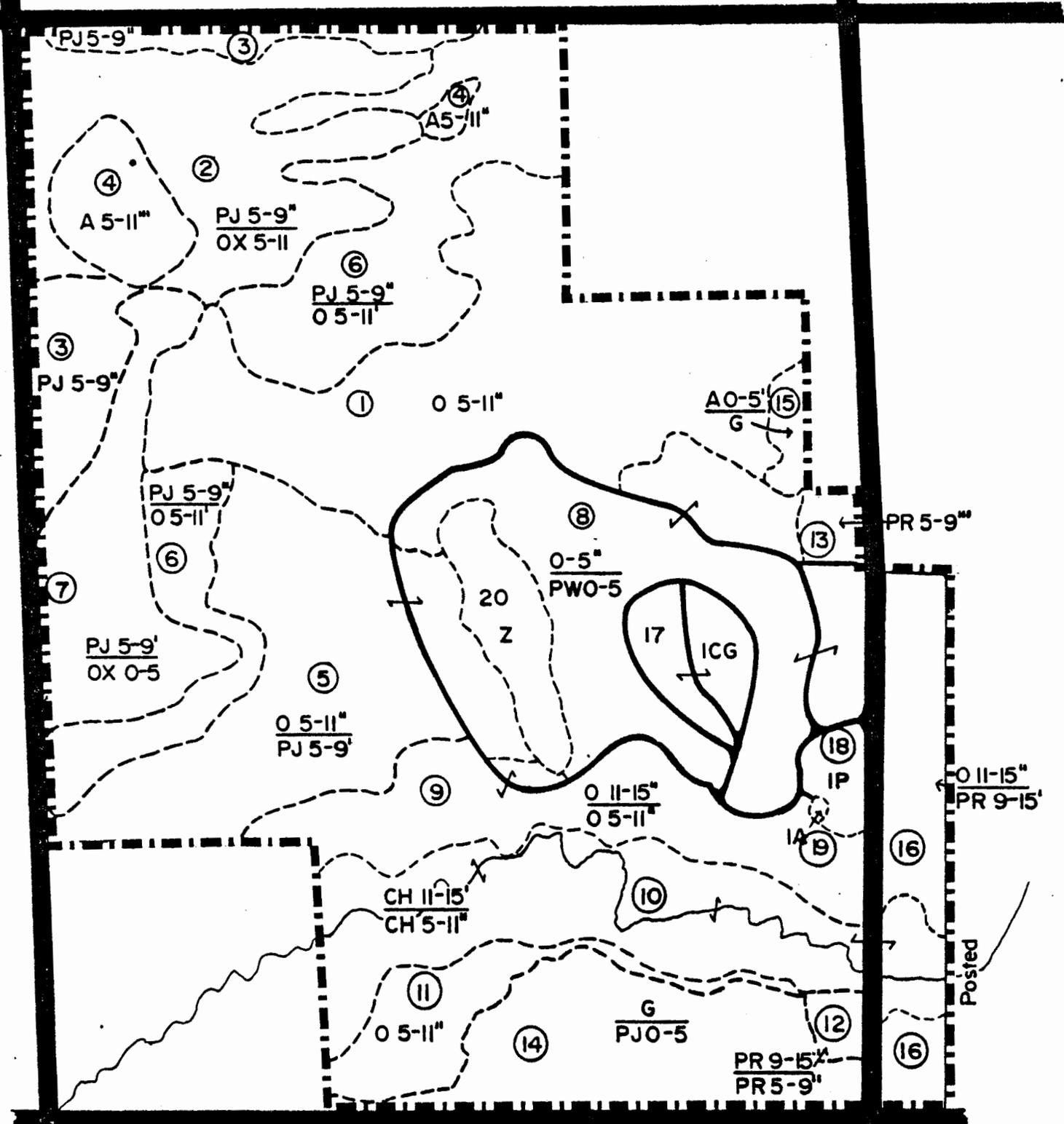


FIGURE 4



# SOILS MAP

ROCHE-A-CRI  
STATE PARK

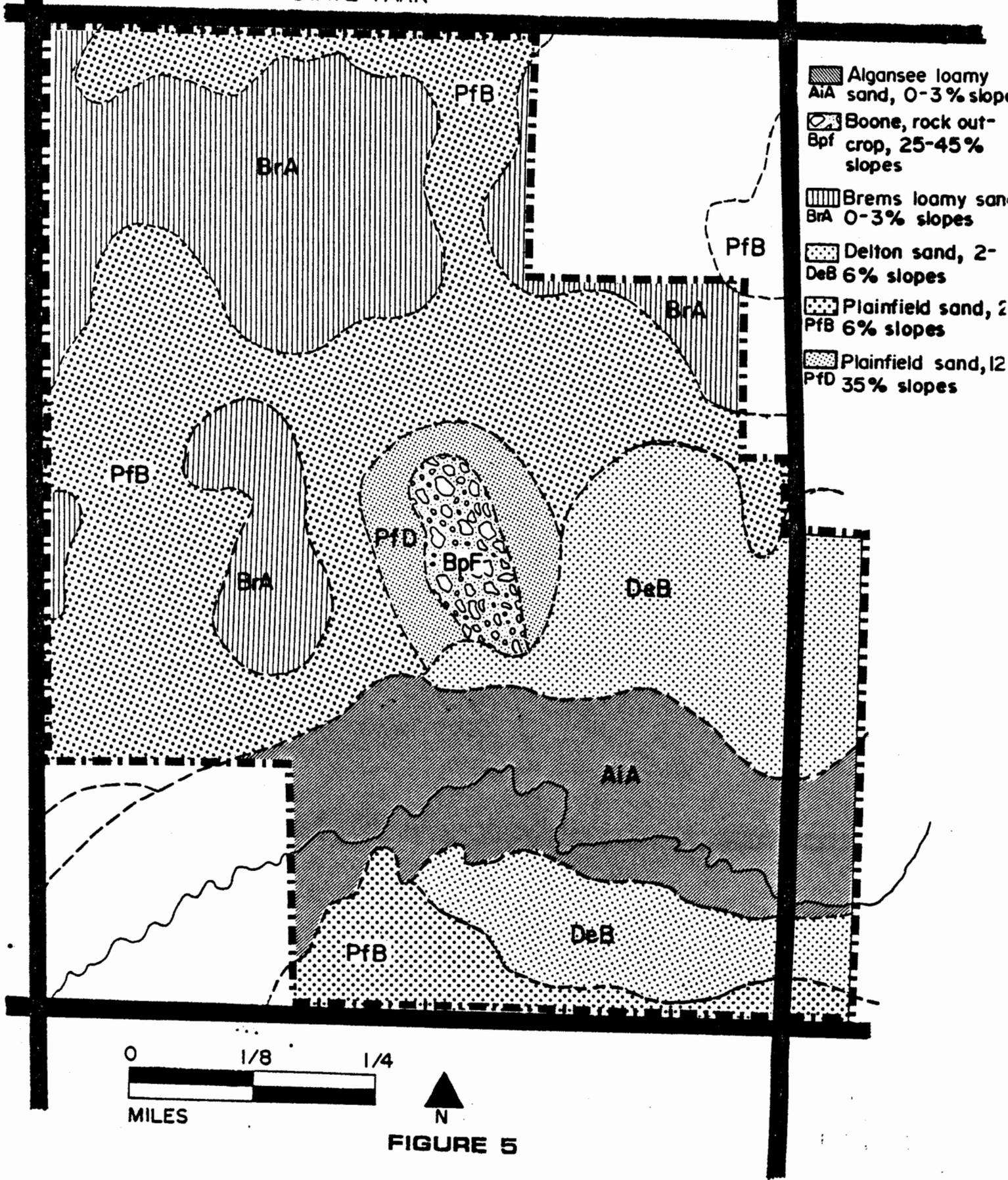


FIGURE 5



SECTION II  
SUPPORT DATA

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Location (Fig. 1)

Roche-A-Cri State Park is located in Central Wisconsin in the Town of Preston, Adams County. The park is located on State Highway 13 just north of the Village of Adams-Friendship.

The nearest center of population is Wisconsin Rapids (18,600) about 25 miles to the north. Other major population centers within 50 miles of the park include Marshfield (15,600) and Stevens Point (23,500). The park is also located within 80 miles of Madison and a day's travel time from Chicago, Duluth-Superior, Milwaukee and the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan areas.

The major north-south highway near the park is State Highway 13. The major east-west highway is State Highway 21. Interstate Highway 90-94 is located 25 miles southwest of the park, providing access to the area from the large urban centers of Minnesota and Illinois as well as Madison and Milwaukee.

2. History of Property Creation

The area was originally acquired as a roadside area by the State Highway Commission in 1937, during the rebuilding of State Highway 13. This original area was small, encompassing a narrow 300-foot wide strip on either side of the highway. On August 15, 1947, the Conservation Commission instructed the Department to work with the State Highway Commission in the establishment of a state roadside park at this site. Authority was also given to expand the park area to include Roche-A-Cri Mound and a portion of Carter Creek. The new park would officially be called Roche-A-Cri State Roadside Park. In 1948, the land owned by the Highway Commission was officially transferred to the Conservation Commission. While the property was under control of the Highway Commission, a considerable amount of work was done on the area by the Civilian Conservation Corps from the Necedah Camp.

After acquisition by the Conservation Commission, land acquisition continued with a boundary set at 451.24 acres. Improvements continued with the addition of several picnic areas, a hiking trail and a 45-unit family campground. In 1976, the park boundary was reduced from 451.24 acres by 40.18 acres to the present 411.06 acres. The reduction resulted from the private development of this land and the determination that the parcel was not essential for park purposes. With the reduction in boundary size, all land within the new boundary is state owned.

3. Administrative Actions

Since 1976, climbing of Roche-A-Cri Mound has been restricted due to the history of accidents and deaths resulting from climbing attempts. No formal trails are provided to the top of Roche-A-Cri Mound. Persons interested in climbing the mound may do so by applying for a climbing permit through the park manager, and signing a release form (See Appendix A).

4. Current Management Activities and Use

Existing recreational developments consist of a 45-unit family campground with pit-type toilets, a 17-acre picnic area with 30 picnic tables and 11 grills, and a 4-mile long hiking trail. A travel/trailer sanitary station was recently added in 1980. Also added recently was an official State of Wisconsin Historical Marker describing the history of the area (See Appendix B). A site containing historic Indian petroglyphs is fenced to protect most of the historic carvings and still allow for public viewing.

Approximately twelve acres of open field in the southeast corner of the park in the S 1/2 of SW 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 29 is used for training fire control personnel in equipment operation. This area is well separated from the intensively developed recreational sites within the park.

The park is not open during the snow-covered months. During this period, some people do utilize the park's hiking trails and roads for cross-country skiing.

Management of the park is the responsibility of the Forest Ranger-Superintendent stationed at the Friendship sub-area office.

5. Ownership (Fig. 2)

Park ownership totals 411.06 acres. All land within the boundary is in State ownership.

B. RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

1. Soils and Hydrology (Fig. 5)

The greatest part of the park consists of sandy flats. The skyline is broken by Roche-A-Cri Mound described in the following section on geology. Erosion of the weak Cambrian sandstone bedrock was responsible for the creation of the sand plains. Deposition on the bottom of Glacial Lake Wisconsin, which covered the area during the glacial age, and outwash contributed more to the leveling process. The sandy soils are generally well drained with an infiltration rate of about eight inches per hour.

2. Geology

One of the most conspicuous and beautiful rocks in Wisconsin is Roche-A-Cri. The craggy sides of Roche-A-Cri Mound look, from a distance, like ruined castles and towers. Roche-A-Cri stands about 300 feet above the adjacent plain; its crest being 1,185 feet above sea level. It is a long, narrow, flat-topped ridge bordered by sheer precipices. Friendship Mound to the south rises 85 feet higher but is a much less striking topographic feature. In any direction from the top of Roche-A-Cri can be seen sandstone crags and towers such as Pilot Knob, Mosquito Mound, Bald Bluff, Land Mound, Bear Bluff, Rattlesnake Mound and Dorro Couche.

Roche-A-Cri Mound is much like those hills of the Great Plains and the arid southwestern part of the United States which are called mesas, if large, and buttes, if small.

Flat-topped and cliff-sided Roche-A-Cri Mound is really a rock island in what was once Glacial Lake Wisconsin that once covered much of central Wisconsin. After the Glacial Lake disappeared, this rocky island, composed of Cambrian sandstone, resisted subsequent weathering and erosion. The weathering and wind work that helped fashion Roche-A-Cri continue to go on today at the edges of the rock. The sandstone slowly breaks and crumbles along its joints and outer edges and is blown and washed away.

3. Wildlife

A wildlife inventory has not been completed for the state park. Common species of mammals include deer, raccoon, gray squirrel, and woodchuck. Birds present include ruffed grouse, bluejay, crow and chickadee. Representative reptiles and amphibians are the eastern garter and western fox snakes and the American toad. No endangered or threatened species of mammals, birds or reptiles are known to be present on the property. (Rock doves nest among the cliffs)

4. Vegetation (Fig. 4)

Vegetation within the park is primarily oak and jack pine. A stand of large-tooth aspen exists in the northwest corner of the park which was damaged by severe windstorms. White pine and red pine reproduction is evident near the campground area. The strip of land on the east side of State Highway 13 contains some large red pine over 15 inches in diameter. Vegetation bordering Carter Creek consists of mixed hardwoods including basswood, soft maple, oak, elm (much of which is dead), hickory and white birch. Two, small red pine plantations can be found in the park.

No endangered or threatened species of wild plants are known to be present on the property.

5. Water Resources

Carter Creek meanders through the park for a distance of about 3/4 of a mile. This picturesque stream is not classified as a trout stream within the park boundary. The section within the park boundary is too warm for trout during the summer due to the long distance the stream flows before reaching the park and the many beaver dams upstream from the park. Fish present in the stream are northern pike, sculpins, and mud minnows, all warm water species. While the water is too warm for trout, it is also too cold to be suitable for wading or swimming.

Bank erosion is a problem at several locations within the park.

No endangered or threatened species of fish, amphibians or molluscs are known to be present on the portion of Carter Creek with the boundary of Roche-A-Cri State Park.

## 6. Historical and Archaeological Features

The name Roche-A-Cri refers to the large rock outcropping that towers 300 feet above the surrounding landscape. Early French explorers and fur trappers called it "Roche-A-Cris" or "Crevice in the Rock" referring to the large cleft in the rock structure that is visible from some distance from various vantage points. The flat-topped, cliff-sided Roche-A-Cri was a rocky island in the former Glacial Lake Wisconsin. The many faces of Roche-A-Cri are prime examples of rock formations carved by "Mother Nature". Even today, forces of wind, rain, freezing and thawing continue to work away at Roche-A-Cri.

Government survey notes taken in 1851 refer to "hieroglyphs of antiquated appearance" on the side and in a cave at Roche-A-Cri and surmised that "from the appearance, they must have been written centuries ago". Since that time, white man has left his mark on the face of Roche-A-Cri and inscription covers inscription until the petroglyphs have been obliterated in some places. Fences now protect most of the petroglyphs from additional carving.

On November 23, 1981, the State Historical Society was contacted, by letter, requesting they inform the DNR of any additional unique or significant sites of historic value. A reply was received on December 10, 1981, indicating no other sites were known to exist in the park (see Appendix C). If any sites are discovered, they will be afforded proper protection.

## 7. Recreational Potential

Camping and picnicking use is light due to a lack of recreational water for such activities as swimming, boating, fishing, water skiing, etc. Camping at Roche-A-Cri is mainly transient (one-night). Most day use visitors come to view the petroglyphs, walk the trails or view Roche-A-Cri Mound. Some bring picnics to enjoy while participating in these other day use activities. Some geological and historic interpretive devices could make the park more attractive to prospective users.

Some transient picnickers are attracted due to the proximity of the park to State Highway 13.

Use at the park has remained relatively stable with 37,800 day users and 5,028 campers in 1970 and 35,145 day users and 4,039 campers in 1980. Use varies slightly from year to year with weather conditions.

A picnic shelter could make the area more attractive for group gatherings.

## 8. Land Use Potential (Fig. 3)

The land within the park boundary has been designated according to the Department of Natural Resources' uniform system of land uses. Designations have been selected to provide for resource protection while allowing the recreational needs of the park visitor to be met. Land use classifications for the 411.06 acre park area include:

Intensive Recreation Development Area (IRD)	26.00 acres
Extensive Recreation Area (ERA)	323.56 acres
Natural Area (N)	32.00 acres
Scientific Area (S)	10.00 acres
Historic Area (H)	2.00 acres
Administrative Area (AD-1)	5.50 acres
Administrative Area (AD-8)	12.00 acres
Total	411.06 acres

Management criteria for designated land use will be implemented on state-owned land only! Privately-owned lands surrounding the park boundary have no restrictions placed on them by this plan.

## C. MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

### 1. Obsolete Administration Building and Garage

The existing office is a garage which was built in 1949, but is in poor condition. The garage has a dirt floor. The building is starting to settle. If the building is to remain, major work is needed, including the addition of a foundation. The building's estimated value is \$4,925. The location of the existing building does not allow it to be used as a contact station. At smaller parks, the office and contact station should be in one building due to limited staffing.

### 2. Lack of Recreational Water

The lack of water body suitable for swimming, boating and fishing does reduce the attractiveness of the park for traditional types of outdoor recreational activities such as picnicking and camping.

3. Stream Bank Erosion

Bank erosion is a problem at several locations on Carter Creek within the park. The removal of large trees which are lying in the stream would help alleviate the erosion. Steep banks should be tapered, rock riprap applied and brush and trees cut with 20 to 30 feet of problem spots to allow sunlight to penetrate, thus stimulating grass. Grass stabilizes stream banks more effectively than trees or brush.

4. Climbing Roche-A-Cri Mound

Due to a history of serious accidents in the past, as well as deaths caused by falling, climbing Roche-A-Cri Mound has been regulated. A potential climber must apply for a climbing permit and sign a release form for liability reasons. About ten climbing permits per year are usually issued.

A developed trail and stairway to the top of the mound could be considered as an alternative. The high cost of this alternative, \$100,000 or more, seems to make it impractical.

5. Need for New Campground Toilet Building and Well

Campground toilet buildings (numbers 1617 and 1618) were built in 1949 and are in poor condition. The vaults leak and new roofs are needed. These buildings should be replaced. The estimated value of these buildings is \$2,120. An additional well is also needed to meet Division of Health recommendations on spacing of water outlets for campgrounds.

6. Vandalism and Weathering of Petroglyphs

Most of the petroglyphs on the south face of the Roche-A-Cri Mound have been protected from vandalism by a cyclone fence that allows viewing, but prevents man-caused damage. A second problem is the slow weathering of the sandstone the petroglyphs are carved on. To date, contacts with state and federal historical site preservation specialists have not unveiled any methods of slowing down the weathering process that may eventually lead to the disappearance of the petroglyphs.

Sketches of the petroglyphs should be made and displayed at the site so park visitors can better visualize and appreciate them.

7. Deteriorating Park Roads

The park roads are deteriorating through normal "wear and tear" and age. Roads will be cool-coated or resurfaced, as necessary. During the off-season, when the park is closed, the park roads are used for road testing of fire control vehicle operators.

8. Wildlife Problems

Nuisance problems with raccoons during the heavy use summer season may occur. If the need for population control of raccoons should become evident, DNR personnel would remove excess populations.

The state park is presently closed to both deer and small game hunting in accord with state statute. Ample recreational hunting opportunity exists throughout the immediate area. Should deer concentrations develop and cause habitat deterioration due to the "refuge effect", the possibility of a deer season could be considered.

9. Lack of Sanitary Facilities

The picnic areas in the northwest corner of the park have no sanitary facilities within easy walking distance.

#### D. RECREATION NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION

##### 1. 1981 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Roche-A-Cri State Park is located in SCORP Planning Region 5 which is composed of Marathon, Wood, Portage, Juneau and Adams Counties. Recreation resources in this planning region are well distributed with three state parks, 34 county parks and county forest land in Juneau, Wood and Marathon Counties. There are 12 public hunting and fishing areas in the region. The largest include Meadow Valley, Sandhill and Mead State Wildlife Areas. The Necedah National Wildlife Refuge is also found in Juneau County.

SCORP makes the following observations:

Camping - Estimates of future developed camping demand for the region indicates no need for additional facilities through 1984. The supply of campsites in the park exceeds current demand.

Picnicking - Roche-A-Cri has 2.5 acres of developed picnic area with 12 picnic tables. The 1981 SCORP does not provide supply, demand, and need data for picnicking.

Hiking Trails - It is anticipated that an additional 81 miles of hiking trail will be needed in the region by 1984. The existing park hiking trails receive only moderate use.

##### 2. Adams County Recreation Plan

The 1977 Adams County General Development Plan indicates that more than enough facilities are now being provided to accommodate picnicking and camping demand in the County. The plan indicates a surplus of 266 picnic tables and a surplus of 541 campsites when compared to the 1980 demand.

Due to the characteristics of hiking and nature study, the plan indicated it was not possible to designate capacity figures for these activities.

The plan further notes that up to the present time, Adams County has experienced only moderate demand for its recreational facilities. It is estimated recreational demand will increase about 20% from 1980-1990. The plan further cautions of the environmental dangers of overuse of recreational facilities.

The importance of protecting the county's scenic resources including mounds such as Roche-A-Cri is mentioned.

An extreme shortage of public swimming facilities also was mentioned as a problem.

##### 3. Master Plan for Petenwell County Park

Petenwell Park on the Petenwell Flowage is owned by the Wisconsin River Power Company and leased to Adams County. The 70-acre park may be expanded to 431 acres. The long-range master plan for the area intends to meet current and future outdoor recreation needs. Development and maintenance of the park is the responsibility of the Adams County Park and Snowmobile Committee. Long-range park development plans call for expanded recreational opportunities for camping, tennis, biking, hiking, swimming, nature study, and boating.

#### E. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

##### 1. Expand Boundary

The existing park boundary is mostly surrounded by roads. Development and subdivisions surround the park area making future expansion impractical and expensive. In 1976, the park boundary was reduced by 40.18 acres with the justification that it was not essential for park purposes. Sufficient space is available within the existing boundaries to expand picnic, hiking and camping facilities if needed in the future.

##### 2. Reduce Boundary

The state now owns 100% of the land within the existing boundary. The majority of the boundary is surrounded by public roads forming a logical boundary. Further reduction in the boundary would eliminate the alternative of future trails, camping and picnic area expansion as well as the loss of buffer zone which enhances the natural values of the park.

##### 3. Provide Additional Camping Facilities

The existing campground is used to about 30% capacity based on a 100-day summer season. The campground does not serve as a "destination type" campground. The average length of stay is only one night. It serves travelers on State Highway 13. State and county recreation plans do not foresee needs in the immediate future for additional camping facilities. However, conversion of a few "drive-in" units to "walk-in" units for tent campers could make tent camping potential more attractive.

4. Improve Day Use Facilities

Improvement of existing day use facilities could include expansion of the hiking trail system with additional interpretive devices, additional facilities for the handicapped, addition of a picnic area shelter and a two-unit vault-type toilet, interpretive displays and access and parking for the handicapped at the petroglyphs, protection of the petroglyphs, additional playground equipment and construction of a new office and entrance station. The campground would continue to operate with 45 units. The historical marker site would be maintained as is. Eroding spots on Carter Creek would be restored and erosion corrected.

5. Reduce Picnic Area Acreage

The 17-acre picnic area would be reduced to six acres. The number of picnic tables (30) and grills (11) would remain the same. The concentration of users at one time would still allow for a pleasant, rustic picnicking experience. Any part of the nine acres that are no longer to be used could be restored to meet increases in picnicking demand if necessary.

6. Prairie Establishment

An excellent opportunity exists to reestablish a prairie in an open field in the southeast corner of the park. Twelve acres of this field is designated as an equipment training area. A visual barrier of mixed tree species could be planted between the field and the equipment training area. Expertise is available for assistance in prairie restoration. Once established, the prairie would be maintained by prescribed burning.

7. Operate As Is

This could be a viable alternative, however, this alternative would not allow for improvement of the existing facilities and associated problems.

8. Provide Trail and Stairway to Top of Mound

This idea was rejected due to the high anticipated cost of such a project compared to the relatively low park use and public benefit. The public may still climb, but must first obtain permit and sign a release form.

9. Wildlife

Roche-A-Cri State Park presently provides excellent wildlife habitat adding greatly to its attractiveness as a recreational site. The excellent habitat is a result of timber stand diversity. Cutting of the aspen stand in the northwest corner of the park will take place to perpetuate this type for aesthetic reasons. When this stand is cut, dead trees and large trees with cavities should be left where possible. Insectivorous birds and cavity nesting birds and mammals will benefit. The remaining tree cover will be managed to provide habitat to meet the needs of bird and animal life requiring mature woodlots. Dead and downed trees provide excellent wildlife habitat for many species of birds and mammals and will be left in the extensive user areas of the park if they don't interfere with visitor safety.

10. Swimming

Construct an impoundment on Carter Creek, dig a swimming pond or construct a swimming pool was considered and rejected. An impoundment on Carter Creek would have to be built across the entire floodplain which averages 650 feet wide. The great length of such a dam, high annual flood flow, debris in the stream and pockets of unstable soil make the creation of such a flowage unfeasible. A privately-owned flowage which was permitted by the Department on October 16, 1968, under Docket Number 3-WR-299 presently exists 1/2-mile downstream from the Park. This flowage does not provide desirable swimming qualities because of aquatic weed growth and sediment disposition problems. The portion of creek within the park is immediately downstream from the Class III trout water portion of Carter Creek. Creation of flowages or connected ponds on or near trout waters increases the water surface area exposed to sunlight usually increasing water temperature.

Another alternative would be to create a public swimming area by digging a pond in a low lying (non-floodway) area adjacent to the creek. Two possible sites exist. One is located across the entrance road and directly northeast of the existing Indian petroglyph sign; the other site is located along the high ridge line a short distance downstream (northwest) of the existing hiking trail bridge. While these two potential sites exist, the costs associated with construction, including disposal of the spoil at an approved upland site and the continued maintenance requirements needed to insure safe water quality standards would be substantial. Dug ponds of this nature may be suitable for private swimming facilities where small numbers of people use the water area. If, however, significant numbers of people were to use a small area, the fecal coliform count would likely exceed safe levels making the pond unsafe for swimming.

A third alternative would be to construct and operate a swimming pool. The high cost of this alternative makes it impractical at this time.

It appears as if the construction of an impoundment or a dug pond is not environmentally sound.

A public beach does exist on Friendship Lake, 1 3/4 miles south of Roche-A-Cri Park on the west side of State Highway 13. The Village of Adams also has a new enclosed municipal swimming pool which is open to the public at a minimal charge, located two miles south of the park.



SUBJECT: Climbing Permits - Roche-A-Cri State Park

How to obtain a permit

Applicant

1. Prepares written request and delivers or mails to Park Manager.

Park Manager

2. Informs applicant of climbing requirements and that it takes about two weeks to issue a permit.

3. Recommends approval or disapproval on written request.

- a. Approval - lists date; permits may only be issued for one day.

- b. Disapproval - states reason for disapproval.

4. Sends request to Area Supervisor

Area Supervisor

5. Recommends approval or disapproval and forwards to district director.

District Director

6. Approves or disapproves.

7. If approved, forwards two copies of standard release form (attached) to the applicant for his/her signature and return to District Director. Applicant retains one copy as his/her permit to climb and returns one to District Director who then informs the area of approval.

8. If disapproved, sends letter to applicant with reasons for disapproval with a copy to the Area Supervisor.

General

1. Climbing permits will not be issued when the park is closed for the season.
2. Climbing permits will not be issued for weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day or on Memorial Day, July 4 or Labor Day.

District Supplement *B. H.B.*  
Date: October 28, 1981

Distribution  
All Manual Code Holders  
place in holders.

Special Instructions  
North Central District Procedure Only

3. Climbing permits will be issued for one day only. Only one permit per individual will be issued at one time.
4. Climbing permits will not be issued to minors under the age of 18 years, without parents' consent.
5. Climbing permits will be good for daylight hours only.
6. Climbers must notify the park manager or attendant on duty before initiating his/her climb.
7. Each climber must sign a release form.
8. Due to the soft nature of the rock, the use of pitons is prohibited during the climb.

Roche-A-Cri State Park

RELEASE

I, the undersigned, enter into this Agreement and Release for and in consideration of permission to use the "mound" at Roche-A-Cri State Park, which is a natural feature owned and managed by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and which is otherwise closed to public use and not designated as a special use area.

I, the undersigned, agree to save, keep harmless and defend the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and all its officers, employees and agents, against any and all liability claims, costs of whatever kind and nature, for injury or death of myself or any person or persons, and for loss or damage to any property (state or other) occurring in connection with or in any way incident to or arising out of occupancy, use, service, operation or performance of the undersigned or acts of the undersigned's employees, agents or representatives.

I, further understand and agree, that the mound at Roche-A-Cri State Park is a natural area within the definition of the statutes section 29.68(2)(m) (1981) of the Wisconsin Statutes and that the State of Wisconsin has no obligation to guard or warrant against any condition, use, structure or activity at the site.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate



29.68 Liability of Landowners. (1) SAFE FOR ENTRY; NO WARNING. An owner, lessee or occupant of premises owes no duty to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, berry picking, water sports, sight-seeing, cutting or removing wood, climbing of observation towers or recreational purposes, or to give warning of any unsafe condition or use of or structure or activity on the premises to persons entering for such purpose, except as provided in sub. (3).

(3) PERMISSION. An owner, lessee or occupant of premises who gives permission to another to hunt, fish, trap, camp, hike, snowmobile, sightsee, berry pick, cut or remove wood, climb observation towers or to proceed with water sports or recreational uses upon such premises does not thereby extend any assurance that the premises are safe for such purpose, or constitute the person to whom permission is granted an invitee to whom a duty of care is owed, or assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to person or property caused by any act of persons to whom the permission is granted, except as provided in sub. (3).

(2m) NO LIABILITY. No public owner is liable for injury or death resulting from the use of natural features, natural conditions or attack by wild animals.

(3) LIABILITY. This section does not limit the liability which would otherwise exist:

(a) For wilful or malicious failure to guard or to warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity.

(b) For injury suffered in any case where permission to hunt, fish, trap, camp, hike, snowmobile, sightsee, berry pick, cut or remove wood, climb observation towers or to proceed with water sports or recreational uses was granted for a valuable consideration other than the valuable consideration paid to the state or to a landowner by the state.

(c) For injury caused by acts of persons to whom permission to hunt, fish, trap, camp, hike, snowmobile, sightsee, berry pick, cut or remove wood, climb observation towers or to proceed with water sports or recreational uses was granted, to other persons as to whom the person granting permission, or the owner, lessee or occupant of the premises, owed a duty to keep the premises safe or to warn of danger.

(4) INJURY TO PERSON OR PROPERTY. Nothing in this section creates a duty of care or ground of liability or injury to person or property.

(5) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Premises" includes lands, private ways and any buildings, structures and improvements thereon.

(b) "Owner" means any private citizen, a municipality as defined under s. 144.01(6), the state, or the federal government, and for purposes of liability under s. 895.46, any employe or agent of the foregoing.

(c) "Valuable consideration" does not include contributions to the sound management and husbandry or natural and agricultural resources of the state resulting directly from recreational activity, payments to landowners either in money or in kind, if the total payments do not have an aggregate value in excess of \$150 annually, or those entrance fees paid to the state, its agencies or departments, municipalities as defined in s. 144.01(6) or the U.S. government.

(d) "Natural features" include but are not limited to undesignated paths, trails and walkways and the waters of the state as defined under s. 144.01(19).

(e) "Public owner" means a municipality as defined under s. 144.01(6), the state, any agency of the state and for purposes of liability under s. 895.46, any employe or agent of the foregoing.

History: 1975c. 179; 1977c. 26 s. 75; 1977c. 75, 123, 143; 1979c. 34 s. 2102(39)(g).

A visitor at a resort which allowed people to enter and which expected to sell them small items was an invitee for a valuable consideration. The exclusion for "contributions to the sound management and husbandry" is a limited exclusion. *Copeland v. Larson*, 46 W (2d) 337, 174 NW (2d) 745.

A city is not an owner so as to be free from liability where plaintiff fell into a trench in a public park. *Goodson v. Racine*, 61 W (2d) 554, 213 NW (2d) 16. Defendant state employees were "owners" under (5) (b). Employees had no duty under this section to warn of cable strung across service road. *Wirth v. Ehly*, 93 W (2d) 433, 287 NW (2d) 140 (1980).

Liability of owners and occupiers of land. 58 ILR 607.

## HISTORICAL MARKER

### TEXT

#### ROCHE-A-CRI STATE PARK

This prominent butte, perhaps the steepest hill in Wisconsin, was called La Roche-A-Cri by 17th and 18th century French voyageurs. Rising 300 feet above the surrounding plain, this landmark undoubtedly guided Indians and early pioneers. Indians of an undetermined cultural group left rock carvings, called petroglyphs at many places on Roche-A-Cri. Like many similar formations on Wisconsin's sandy Central Plain, this butte is composed of Cambrian sandstone about 500,000,000 years old. The flat plain is the old bed of Glacial Lake Wisconsin, which covered 1,800 square miles of central Wisconsin some 15,000 years ago. The buttes were islands in the immense lake.

The State Highway Commission purchased nearby land for a roadside park in 1937 and ten years later, conveyed it to the Wisconsin Conservation Department. Roche-A-Cri State Park was established in 1948 and now contains over 400 acres. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.





HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

December 10, 1981

Mr. Lyle W. Hannahs  
North Central District Headquarters  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 818  
Rhineland, Wisconsin 54501

SHSW: 1257-81  
RE: Roche-A-Cri State Park  
Master Plan

Dear Mr. Hannahs:

We have searched our records for information on any properties of historical or archeological significance located in Roche-A-Cri State Park.

Aside from the Roche-A-Crie Petroglyphs (listed in the National Register of Historic Places), no historical or archeological sites have been reported to the State Historical Society from this area. The lack of site reportings does not necessarily mean that there are no other archeological sites in the park. The area's physical setting indicates that the park would have been a very favorable location for prehistoric habitation and historical sources mention that central Adams County was used by the Winnebago for hunting and trapping.

The only way of determining whether the park contains other archeological sites, that are related to the petroglyphs or that date to other periods of occupation, is to have the park systematically surveyed by a qualified archeologist. In view of the importance of the petroglyphs, we believe that such a survey is essential for the proper management of the park and the preservation of its archeological and scientific integrity.

If you wish to discuss the possibility of an archeological survey further, please contact William Green (608) 262-2970, our staff archeologist, or myself (608) 262-2732.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Dexter  
Chief, Compliance Section

RWD:lkr

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

816 STATE STREET - MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706 RICHARD A. ERNEY, DIRECTOR





# The State of Wisconsin

SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

IN REPLY REFER TO: 2100

March 23, 1983

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

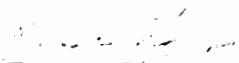
Dear Dave:

We have completed our review of the Roche-A-Cri State Park Concept Master Plan and have a recommendation regarding the land use classification of Roche-A-Cri Mound. This sandstone mesa or outlier is a geological feature of state significance. The Mound also has archeological significance as one of the few known petroglyph sites in the state. Since the Mound is some 100 feet in height with steep sides the biotic community on the Mound remains much less disturbed than most.

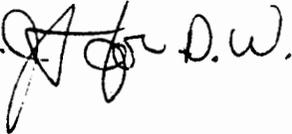
The draft property master plan classifies the Mound and a surrounding buffer zone as "natural area". Recent discussions between the scientific and natural areas Section staff and District personnel resulted in a recommendation to classify the inaccessible top of the Mound as scientific area, the base as natural area. The management guidelines for the scientific area would recognize limited climbing permits as a legitimate scientific area use and further provide for review of the scientific area designation in the future should the Department wish to explore access to the Mound top.

We endorse this recommendation, recognizing the public's recreational use which is now occurring.

Cordially,

  
Forest Stearns  
Chairman

FS:lkm

Date: March 30, 1983 File Ref: 2510  
To: Cliff Germain - ER/4  
From: D. L. Weizenicker   
Subject: SAPC Comments on Roche-A-Cri State Park Master Plan

This is in response to the Council's comments regarding the land use classification of Roche-A-Cri Mound.

We concur with the Council's recommendation to classify the top of the Mound as scientific area and the base as natural area with the understanding that climbing of the Mound by permit will continue. In addition, review of the scientific area designation would be necessary if the Department decides to construct a walkway to the Mound top and one or more observation platforms in the future.

We note that discussion on the above was held between the Scientific and Natural Areas Section staff and North Central District personnel and that the District also concurs with the recommended land use classification of the Mound.

Thank you for the Council's comments on the Roche-A-Cri Master Plan.

DJK:jks

cc: J. L. Treichel - P&R/4  
D. J. Kulhanek - P&R/4 ←  
S. Brasch - Rhinelander

Appendix D

RECEIVED

MAR 4 1983

BUREAU OF FORESTRY

WILD RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ROCHE-A-CRI STATE PARK MASTER PLAN REVIEW

General Review

The Roche-A-Cri State Park Master Plan is, in the opinion of the Wild Resources Advisory Council, a good objective plan -- taking into consideration its primary uses as a day use and transient visitor facility.

Roche-A-Cri Mound is an outstanding geological formation, and should serve as a basis for continued aesthetic, historic, and educational emphasis.

The area possesses good vegetational diversity, and walking trails should be further developed as nature trails to enhance the educational values of the park.

The program outlined for the preservation and protection of the petroglyphs, a unique feature of the park, appears adequate.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Page 1

A. Goal: The WRAC suggests the addition of and educational between the words recreational needs.

Additional benefits: Are berry and mushroom picking normally encouraged in state parks? This seems an incompatible use.

B. Recommended Development and Management Programs: The WRAC questions the development of a prairie unless the area appears to have been a prairie originally.

We strongly agree that a biological inventory be conducted as soon as feasible.

1. Development. The question of erosion along Carter Creek is a bothersome one. No mention can be found in the plan regarding the causes of the erosion. Is it due to human activities, or is it normal erosion due to flood waters?

Page 2 Management

a. Vegetative: Regarding the perpetuation of the aspen stand in the northwest portion of the park. If clear cutting is proposed as a means of regeneration, it would be well to consider the cutting to occur in 2 or 3 blocks extending over a 5 to 10 year period to attain greater age diversity in the resulting stand. This would result in greater wildlife habitat quality and diversity.

b. Facility: The 12-acre fire control equipment training area should be isolated as completely as possible from the public areas of the park by conifer plantings or other suitable screening methods.

Page 3

Section II, Support Data

A. Background Information: An excellent discussion of background information.

The WRAC approves fully of the restrictions imposed on people climbing the mound.

4. Paragraph 3: "Clean-up" of ice damage in the extensive use areas should be limited to those areas along trails where hazards to human passage exist. Other than these, areas should be left in their natural state since the ice storm was a normal natural event.

Pages 4 and 5

B. Resource Capabilities and Inventory

3. Wildlife and 4. Vegetation: As indicated earlier, more complete faunal and floral inventories are much needed if adequate ecological educational programs are to be instituted.

8. Land Use Potential: The WRAC suggests that an imbalance in land use assignments exists, with only 42 acres -- essentially the mound and the red pine stand on the east side of Highway 13 -- being given natural area status. We suggest that some portions of the creek bottom forest, as well as portions of the oak and jack pine stands might well be so designated.

Page 6

9. Stream Bank Erosion: As suggested earlier, if the bank erosion is a normal natural process, we would recommend a hands off policy, particularly if the stream and bottomland were zoned a natural area. Attempting to stabilize or channelize the stream would ultimately destroy the natural characteristics of the stream.

Pages 7 and 8

E. Analysis of Alternatives

1, 2, and 3: We agree with conclusions.

4: Agree except for erosion control on Carter Creek.

6. Prairie Establishment: The WRAC questions the proposal to establish 17 acres of prairie on the open field in the southeast corner of the park. Such an enterprise calls for a major investment in both time and money. Experience at the UW Madison Arboretum indicates several

decades of planting and growth are required before reasonable development of a prairie association can be achieved.

Another possible alternative would be to use the area for a demonstration area in which natural plant succession could be shown and explained.

7 and 8: We agree.

9. Wildlife: The WRAC agrees that wildlife can be a major attraction for the Park. However, see earlier comments on the management of the aspen stand. In addition, we would also recommend clear cutting a few small areas of  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 acre in size scattered in the extensive use forested areas. These openings would permit sunlight to reach the forest floor and enhance the growth of shrubs and herbaceous growth, thus adding diversity as well as food and cover for ground-dwelling mammals. These openings should also enhance the bird life of the forest.

10. Swimming: we agree that providing swimming opportunities in the Park is is not feasible at this time.

Page 9

F. Recommended Alternatives: The WRAC agrees with the alternatives with certain exceptions, as noted in the foregoing discussion. We also strongly recommend a well-developed nature trail system with adequate interpretive treatment.

# CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: April 27, 1983

File Ref:

2510

To: R. Lindberg - FOR/4

From: J. Treichel



Subject: WRAC Comments on Roche-A-Cri State Park Master Plan

Our Bureau's response to the Wild Resources Advisory Council comments and recommendations on the Roche-A-Cri Master Plan are as follows:

1. The WRAC suggests the addition of and educational between the words recreational needs.

Department Response:

"and educational" will be added as recommended by the council.

2. Are berry and mushroom picking normally encouraged in state parks? This seems an incompatible use.

Department Response:

Through Chapter NR 45 this use is permitted in our state parks.

3. The WRAC questions the development of a prairie unless the area appears to have been a prairie originally.

Department Response:

According to The Vegetation of Wisconsin by Curtis the early (ca. 1840) plant community of this area of Wisconsin was oak savanna. Prairie remnants exist today on some of the open sandy sites especially on those sites periodically burned. We believe that the planting of six acres of prairie in the park would not be out of character.

4. The question of erosion along Carter Creek is a bothersome one. No mention can be found in the plan regarding the causes of the erosion. Is it due to human activities, or is it normal erosion due to flood waters?

Department Response:

On page 6 in the Management Problems section it is mentioned that the erosion is caused by the damming action of large trees or snags lying in the stream. Removal of the trees should help remedy the erosion problem.

5. Regarding the perpetuation of the aspen stand in the northwest portion of the park. If clear-cutting is proposed as a means of regeneration, it would be well to consider the cutting to occur in 2 or 3 blocks extending over a 5 to 10 year period to attain greater age diversity in the resulting stand. This would result in greater wildlife habitat quality and diversity.

Department Response:

Because of its small size (about 10 acres) the task force recommended clear-cutting the aspen stand in one cutting to perpetuate it. Although the practice of scheduling cuts in small blocks over a period of years is preferred for large stands, we believe it is not practical in this case.

6. The 12-acre fire control equipment training area should be isolated as completely as possible from the public areas of the park by conifer plantings or other suitable screening methods.

Department Response:

The fire control equipment training area is well separated from the intensive public use areas of the park. A screen planting of mixed native tree species is proposed between the training area and the town road.

7. An excellent discussion of background information. The WRAC approves fully of the restrictions imposed on people climbing the mound.

Department Response:

We appreciate the Council's comments.

8. "Cleanup" of ice damage in the extensive use areas should be limited to those areas along trails where hazards to human passage exist. Other than these, areas should be left in their natural state since the ice storm was a normal natural event.

Department Response:

We agree with the Council's suggestion. It will be stated in the Vegetative Management section that cleanup of ice damaged trees in the extensive use areas will occur only along trails and park roads where visitor safety and aesthetics are the primary objective.

9. As indicated earlier, more complete faunal and floral inventories are much needed if adequate ecological educational programs are to be instituted.

Department Response:

We agree. On page one it is recommended that an inventory be conducted as funds permit or through volunteer efforts by the University system.

10. The WRAC suggests that an imbalance in land use assignments exists, with only 42 acres -- essentially the mound and the red pine stand on the east side of Highway 13 -- being given natural area status. We suggest that some portions of the creek bottom forest, as well as portions of the oak and jack pine stands, might well be so designated.

Department Response:

Because of the small size of the park (411 acres) we feel there is a need for more latitude on management than is provided with the natural area land use classification. The park has a history of blow downs. Since most of the park is readily accessible to the public, corrective action may be needed to ensure visitor safety.

11. As suggested earlier, if the bank erosion is a normal natural process, we would recommend a hands-off policy, particularly if the stream and bottom land were zoned a natural area. Attempting to stabilize or channelize the stream would ultimately destroy the natural characteristics of the stream.

Department Response:

Since the bank erosion problem is becoming quite severe at several locations within the park, the task force recommended corrective measures that will include removing large trees lying in the stream, sloping the banks, applying rock riprap, and cutting small areas of trees and shrubs to encourage grass growth on the stream bank.

12. We agree with conclusions (alternatives 1, 2, and 3). Agree except for erosion control on Carter Creek (alternative 4). The WRAC questions the proposal to establish 17 acres of prairie on the open field in the southeast corner of the park. Such an enterprise calls for a major investment in both time and money. Experience at the UW Madison Arboretum indicates several decades of planting and growth are required before reasonable development of a prairie association can be achieved.

Another possible alternative would be to use the area for a demonstration area in which natural plant succession could be shown and explained (Alternative 6).

Department Response:

The Council's comments on the prairie establishment and Carter Creek erosion control proposals were addressed under item #3 and #11 respectively.

13. We agree (alternate 7 and 8). The WRAC agrees that wildlife can be a major attraction for the park. However, see earlier comments on the management of the aspen stand. In addition, we would also recommend clear-cutting a few small areas of 1/2 to 1 acre in size scattered in the

extensive use forested areas. These openings would permit sunlight to reach the forest floor and enhance the growth of shrubs and herbaceous growth, thus adding diversity as well as food and cover for ground-dwelling mammals. These openings should also enhance the bird life of the forest (alternate 9).

We agree that providing swimming opportunities in the park is not feasible at this time (alternate 10).

Department Response:

The park's jack pine and oak types are slowly converting to white pine in natural seeding. Cutting in these stands will be designed to favor the white pine. Some oak, although of poor quality because of the sandy soils, will be retained to protect the white pine, provide species variety, and produce mast for wildlife. Central hardwoods along the creek corridor will be managed on an individual or group selection basis to maximize aesthetics and wildlife habitat.

14. The WRAC agrees with the alternatives with certain exceptions, as noted in the foregoing discussion. We also strongly recommend a well-developed nature trail system with adequate interpretive treatment.

Department Response:

So noted. Because of funding priorities and low use Roche-A-Cri is not being considered for development of a new nature trail during the 10-year life of the master plan.

We thank the Council for their careful review and constructive comments.

DJK:mf

1690M

cc: D. Kulhanek - P&R/4

J. Treichel - P&R/4

J. Brasch - Rhinelander

JAN 24 1933

Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Assessment

#1275-24

Applicant: Department of Natural Resources  
Title of Proposal: Roche-A-Cri State Park Master Plan  
Location: County: Adams  
Township 18 North, Range 6 East  
Sections 29 and 30  
Political Town: Preston

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. General Description:

This Environmental Assessment is for the Roche-A-Cri State Park Master Plan. A summary of the major points include no additional land acquisition. The boundary would remain the same as it now is (413.3 acres). New buildings proposed would include a picnic shelter building, two sets of pit-type toilets, and an office/garage building at the entrance. A six-acre prairie would be established, and a 12-acre equipment testing area would continue to be used.

2. Purpose and Need:

To make available facilities and areas for outdoor recreational use in such a manner as to utilize, protect, and enhance the natural assets of the area.

3. Authorities and Approvals:

Chapter 27.01 of Wisconsin Statutes (Public Parks and Recreation). Building designs must meet State and local requirements for public buildings and zoning regulations. Campground designs must meet requirements of Division of Health Administrative Code H-78. Natural Resources Board approval of the Master Plan is necessary.

4. Estimated Cost and Funding Source:

The development cost would be \$200,000 coming from Outdoor Recreation Act Program (ORAP) bonding and formula funds. The work would be done by both contract and force account as funds and priorities permit.

PROPOSED PHYSICAL CHANGES

5. Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources:

Approximately 400 cubic yards of dirt would be removed for the two toilet buildings, shelter building, and office building. The pit under the old campground pit toilets would be filled (100 cubic yards). A 12-acre area would be disturbed periodically by the testing of fire control equipment such as bulldozers, fire plows, etc. Additional earth would be disturbed for the new, redesigned entrance.

6. Manipulation of Aquatic Resources:

Stream bank erosion on Carter Creek is a problem at several locations. The removal of trees, which are lying in the stream, would help alleviate the erosion. Steep banks would be tapered, rock riprap applied, brush and some trees removed within 20-30 feet of the bank to allow more sunlight to penetrate, thus stimulating grass growth. Grass would stabilize the stream bank and problem locations more effectively than trees or brush.

7. Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures:

At such times as the following buildings are erected, a separate environmental assessment will be prepared:

Erect Two 12' X 20' pit-type toilet buildings.

Erect one 24' X 40' shelter building.

Erect one 800 sq. foot administrative office/contact station, garage.

Remove two 10' X 12' pit-type toilet buildings.

The existing park roads would be resurfaced and a new entrance road, with a separate lane for sticker sales, would be built. An additional well and hand pump would be provided in the campground.

8. Emissions and Discharges:

The planned construction would create a potential for dust.

Emissions would be caused by motor vehicles driven by visitors, for park maintenance, and for construction. Emissions would also come from motor vehicles in the equipment testing area.

9. Other Changes:

Two red pine plantations would be thinned to diminish the existing row appearance and to create a more natural appearance (about 5 acres). The aspen stand in the northwest corner of the park (about 10 acres) will be perpetuated by clearcutting at rotation age. Much of the existing aspen stand has been destroyed by past wind storms.

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

1. Location map.
2. Land acquisition map.
3. Development plan
4. Vegetative cover map.
5. Soil 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:

Roche-A-Cri Park is general level except for Roche-A-Cri Mound, rising 300 feet above the adjacent plain. The crest of the Mound is 1,185 feet above sea level. The Mound is a former island in Glacial Lake, Wisconsin, composed of Cambrian Sandstone. The surrounding plain is composed of sands and sandy loams with an infiltration rate of eight inches per hour. Carter Creek flows through the southern part of the park for approximately 3/4 mile.

12. Biological

a. Flora

Vegetation is primarily oak and jack pine. One 12-acre stand of largetooth aspen is found in the northwest corner of the park. A strip of land on the east side of State Highway 13 contains some large red pine (over 15-inch diameter). Vegetation bordering Carter Creek consists of mixed hardwoods including basswood, soft maple, oak, elm, hickory, and white birch. Two small red pine plantations (about five acres) can be found in the park. A six-acre prairie would be established in an existing open area.

b. Fauna

Common species of mammals found include deer, raccoon, squirrel, and woodchuck. Birds present include ruffed grouse, bluejay, crow, and chickadee. Representatives of reptiles and amphibians are in the eastern quarter, and western is for snakes and the American toad. Turkey vultures, a species of special interest, are known to visit the park. The turkey vulture is not on the endangered species list or the watch list.

13. Social/Economic:

The State Park is used for many types of summer and winter outdoor recreational activities. Attendance is about 35,000 persons per year for summer day use and about 4,000 camper days. Some informal winter ski-touring and snowshoeing take place. Park users do contribute to the local economy. Proposed developments and improvements are also likely to put additional money into the local economy. This action will not affect or displace any ethnic groups or native Americans. No monies from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Program (LAWCON) have been spent on this project. Additional facilities would be provided to accommodate handicapped persons. Additional recreational and educational opportunities would be provided with the addition of playground equipment and interpretive signs.

• 14. Other Special Resources:

No unique historical or archaeological features aside from the Roche-A-Cri Petroglyphs (listed in the National Register of Historic Places) have been reported to the State Historical Society. The area's physical setting indicates the park may have been a favorable location for prehistoric habitation. Central Adams County was used by the Winnebago Indians for hunting and trapping.

On December 10, 1981, a letter was received from the State Historical Society recommending an archaeological survey be conducted. Such a survey has not been conducted. Before any construction would commence, an archaeological survey of the site to be disturbed would be conducted.

The existing petroglyphs would be protected from visitor use and weathering, as technology permits. No techniques for slowing the weathering process are known to exist at this time.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

##### 15. Physical:

During construction, fuel will be consumed. Minor air pollution may occur from exhaust emissions, smoke, and dust as a result of clearing, construction, or using the equipment testing area. Some noise may be evident. Slight alterations of the topography may occur during construction of the two new toilet buildings, the shelter, or the new office/garage complex or the new entrance road. Minor temporary erosion could occur. During riprapping of Carter Creek, temporary stream turbidity would result and aesthetics would be diminished until grass revegetates the disturbed areas. A beneficial impact would be the stabilization of the stream bank. The proposed developments will have only a minor effect on drainage. The project will provide additional accommodations to recreational visitors, improve existing facilities, and enhance future recreational visits. There would be no impact to energy sources.

##### 16. Biological:

Approximately 1/2 acre of land would be thinned or cleared for the new buildings and entrance road. Of this, about 1/3 acre would be covered with concrete or blacktop and the remainder of the 1/2 acre would be converted to grass cover. Fauna would continue to be displayed by park usage. The 12-acre equipment testing area would be used for approximately six hours per day, 20 times per year. Fire plows and heavy vehicles would disturb the grass-covered course.

##### 17. Social Economic:

Public use of the area would increase due to improved facilities. The area would be more enjoyable to use with easier accessibility for the handicapped and added interpretive devices. It is anticipated public use will show some increase, as well as their related expenditures in the surrounding community. State park admission sticker sales and camper receipts may show a slight increase.

Studies indicate that state-owned land is not an economic burden to local governmental units due to State payments in lieu of taxes and increased school aids in many cases.

##### 18. Other Special Resources:

Historical or archeological artificats may be located on the proposed building sites. An archaeological survey of the sites would be conducted before construction starts.

The petroglyphs will be preserved and protected as technology permits.

19. Probable Adverse Impacts That Cannot be Avoided:

All adverse impacts listed above would be considered unavoidable; however, attempts would be made during the construction process to minimize the adverse impacts. A potential impact exists for the borrow area where black dirt would be obtained. Black dirt would be purchased locally and not obtained from within the park. Smoke Prescribed burning is necessary to maintain the prairie species.

ALTERNATIVES

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.

- A. Reduce Boundary - The state-owned acreage at Roche-A-Cri State Park is 413.3 acres. Due to the small size of this park, a reduced boundary or reduction in boundary size would not meet the objectives of protecting the park from physical and scenic encroachment and allow for future development.
- B. Enlarge Boundary - The majority of the park is now surrounded by roads. Land acquisition within the existing boundary is complete. A larger boundary is not needed to protect the park from physical or scenic encroachment. Sufficient space is available to expand picnic, hiking, and camping facilities, if needed in the future.
- C. Operate As Is - To operate as is would be to continue with the existing facilities and associated problems.
- D. Provide Additional Camping Facilities - The existing campground is not used to capacity except for certain holiday week-ends. It would be uneconomical to consider an expansion in the number of camp units at this time. The average length of stay is one night, and seasonal use is 30% of capacity.
- E. Improve Day Use Facilities - Expand the hiking trail system with additional interpretive devices, provide additional facilities to the handicapped, erect a picnic shelter building and two-unit vault-type toilet in the picnic area, provide interpretive displays and parking for the handicapped at the petroglyphs, protect the petroglyphs, erect playground equipment, and construct a new office and entrance station. This alternative would provide additional outdoor recreational opportunities.
- F. Reduce Picnic Area Acreage - Reduce the 17-acre picnic area to six acres. The number of grills (11) and picnic tables (30) would remain the same. This alternative would allow reduced maintenance costs. The low concentration of users at any one time would still allow for a very pleasant picnicking experience.
- G. Prairie Establishment - An opportunity exists to establish a small (six acres) prairie in the southeast corner of the park. Once established, the prairie would be maintained by periodic prescribed burning. This alternative would provide an additional opportunity for nature observation and study within the park.

- H. Provide Trail and Stairway to Top of Mound - This idea was rejected due to high anticipated cost. The public may still climb, but must first obtain a permit and sign a release form.
- I. Provide Swimming - This alternative could be met on impoundment on Carter Creek, digging a swimming pond, or constructing a swimming pool. Due to high costs, pockets of unstable soil, potential weed growth, and sedimentation problems, disposal of spoil, maintenance of water quality, etc., this idea was rejected.
- J. Designated the Mound as a Scientific Area - The entire Mound, from the base to the top, was considered for Scientific Area status (22 acres). Due to the proximity of the campground, picnic areas, and a hiking trail to the base of the mound and the gentle slopes, it would be difficult to regulate or restrict visitor use near the base, so the Scientific Area status was rejected. The Mound, itself, with its nearly vertical walls, (13 acres) was also considered for Scientific Area status but was rejected due to its small size. The entire 22 acre area is classified as a natural area. Park visitors cannot climb the steep walls to the top of the mound unless they are issued a permit by the District Director. Use has been very light, with about 10-15 climbers per year.
- K. Recommended Alternatives - The recommended alternatives are E, F, and G. Day use facilities would be improved, the picnic area size would be reduced, and a six-acre prairie established. Wildlife habitat would be managed to meet the needs of bird and animal life requiring mature woodlots. Special management and protection techniques would be implemented where endangered flora or fauna were found to exist.

#### EVALUATION

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.

Increased park use may result from the proposed changes but should not have a significant effect on the environment. A potential impact exists for a borrow area for black dirt and fill outside the park boundary.

Smoke will result from the periodic prescribed burning of the six-acre prairie.

22. **New Environmental Effect:** Does the action alter the environment so a new physical, biological or socio-economic environment would exist? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 5-10 or 15-18 as appropriate.

No, the proposed action is minor scope and would not alter the existing environment.

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.

The oak, jack pine, red pine, aspen, and mixed hardwoods are common to the region. Roche-A-Cri Mound, itself, is a unique geological feature and could be considered scarce. The Indian Petroglyphs found in the park are also unique and could be considered scarce.

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

No, the proposals for picnicking, hiking, interpretation, playground equipment, and support facilities are accepted recreational and operation practices in State parks.

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

Possible designation of the Mound areas (22 acres) as a Scientific Area, as opposed to the Natural Area designation given in the Master Plan.

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.

This action does not conflict with agency plans or other local state and federal plans. The proposals are consistent with statutory authority and Natural Resources Board Policies.

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?

Not expected to be significant. No additional actions planned.

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

No, the buildings, paths, parking area, trails, and interpretive devices could all be removed. Intensively developed sites could revert through succession to wooded upland.

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.

30. Other:

.None

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

<u>31.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comment Summary</u>
	Sept. 3, 1982	Tom Smith	Water Management Investigator - Swimming
	Sept. 21, 1982	Arlyn Loomans	Wildlife Staff Specialist
	Feb. 10, 1982	Cliff Germain	Scientific Areas Investigator
	Dec. 10, 1981	Richard Dexter	State of Wisconsin Historical Society
	Nov. 9, 1981	Scot Ironside	Fish Manager

Project Name:

Paducah on Site Pt, MP

County:

DeKalb

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:

10/11/82

SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR

*[Signature]*

DATE

10-11-82

NOTED: AREA SUPERVISOR OR BUREAU DIRECTOR

*[Signature]* James R. Heibel for W. Weigand

DATE

1/20/83

Number of responses to public notice

0

via James Heibel with W. Weigand

Public response log attached?.....

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OR DIRECTOR OF BEI (OR DESIGNEE)

*[Signature]*

DATE

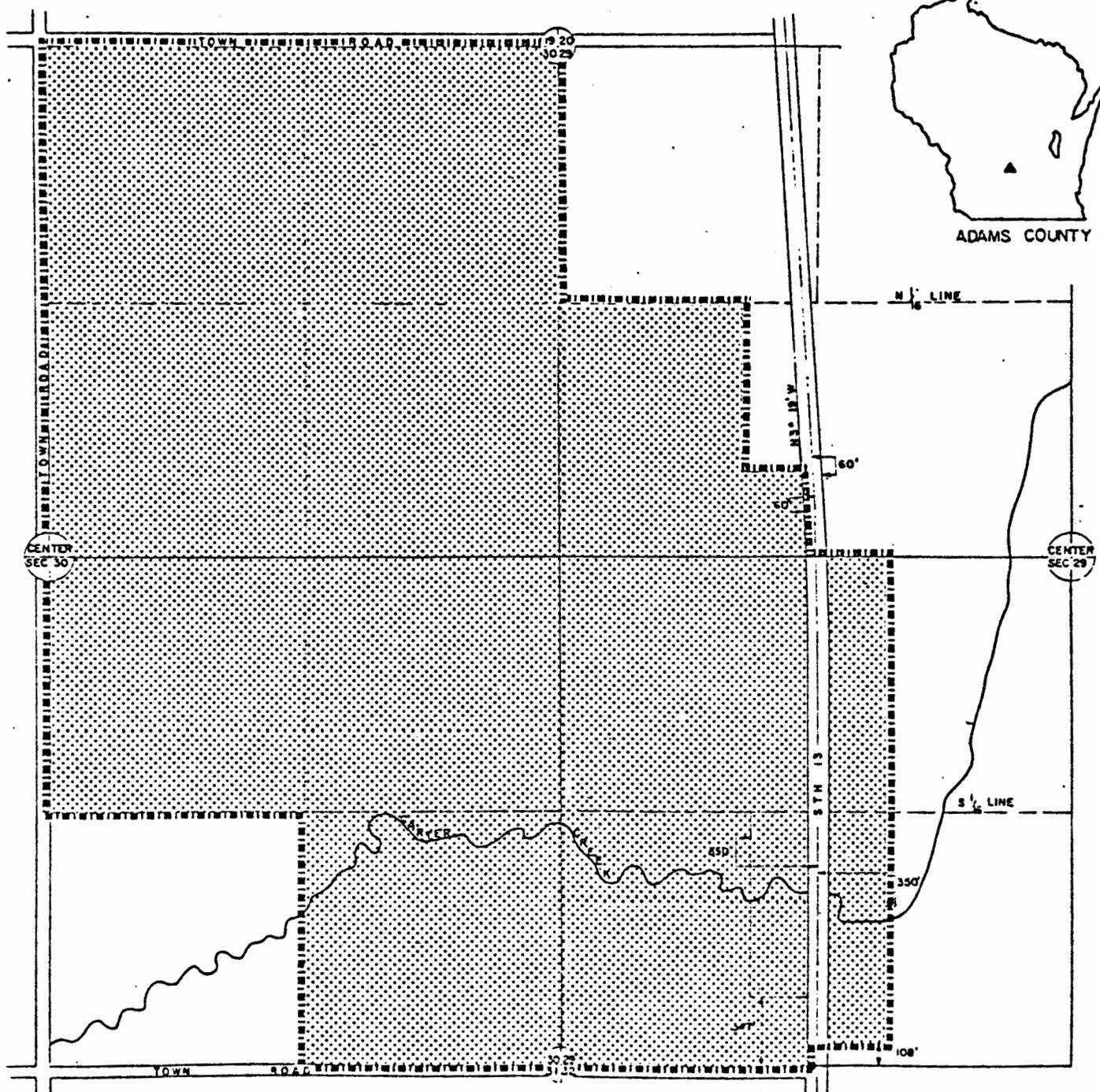
10-11-82

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.





ADAMS COUNTY



NORTH

LEGEND

- STATE OWNED
- PROPOSED BOUNDARY
- ACREAGE
- DATE



REVISED 11-79 BY J GOMOLL PROJECT 0470

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

*John P. ...*  
*...*  
*...*

LAND ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP MAP

ROCHE A CRI ROADSIDE PARK

Drawn by:

Series number: 69-E



# VEGETATIVE COVER MAP

ROCHE-A-CRI  
STATE PARK

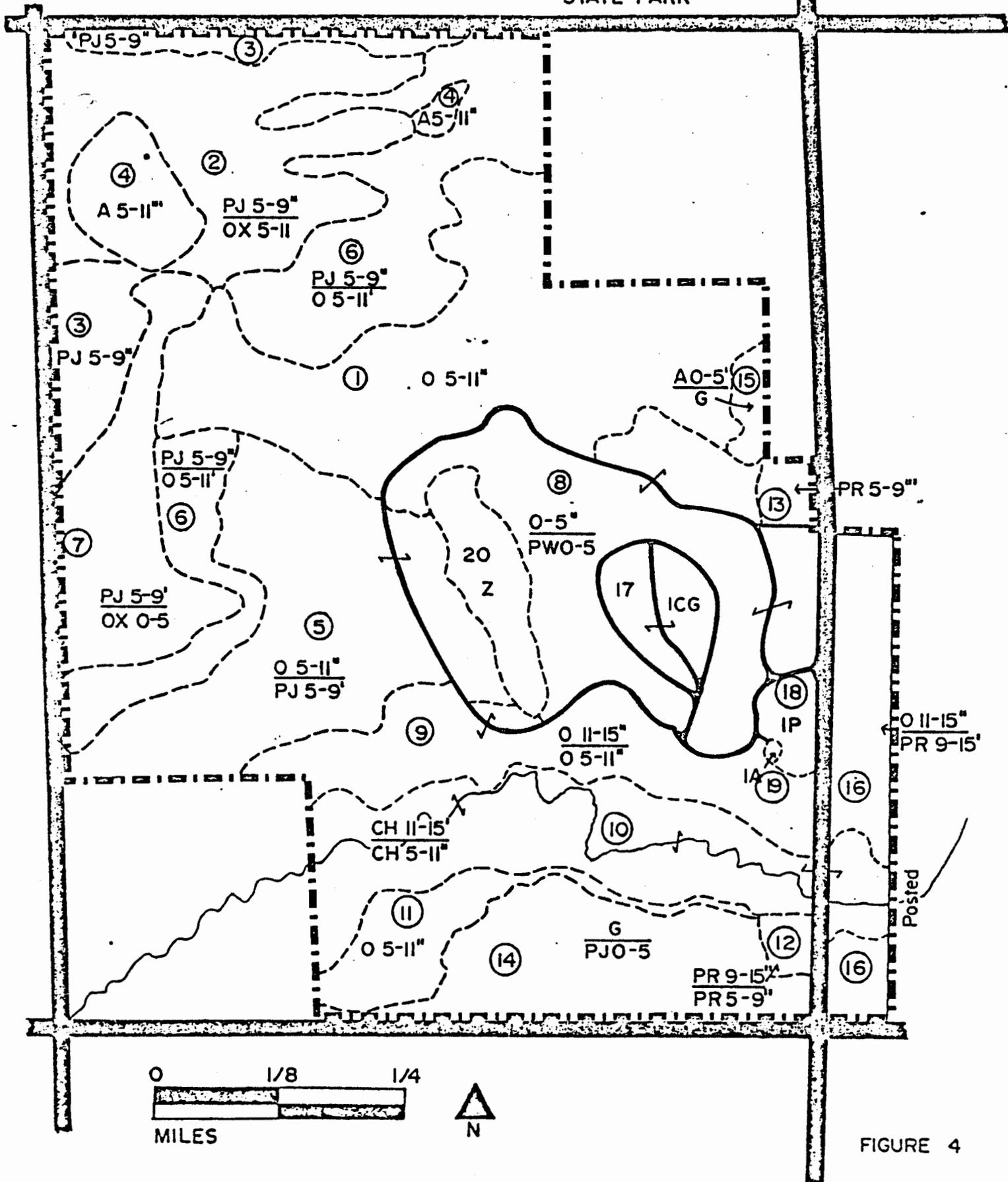


FIGURE 4

# SOILS MAP

ROCHE-A-CRI  
STATE PARK

13

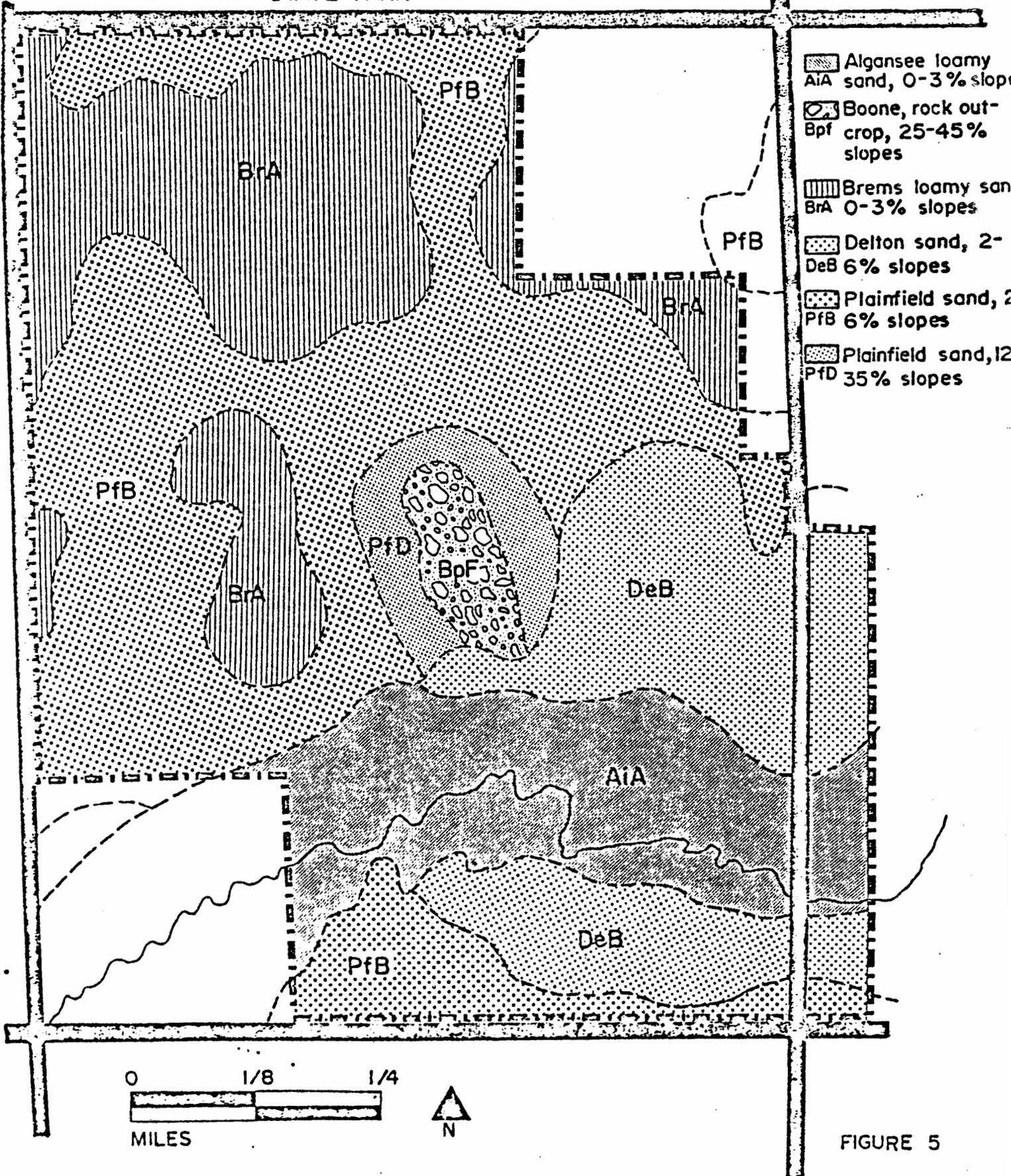


FIGURE 5