

Lake Koronis Regional Park Master Plan

Stearns & Meeker County



Agenda:

- **Introductions**
- **Objective of Master Plan Process**
- **Regional Park Definition and Park Grant Eligibility Requirements:**
 - Stearns County Mission Statement for Regional Parks
 - Regional Park Criteria for DNR Park Grants & DNR Outdoor Recreation Grants
 - Regional Park Grants
 - Outdoor Recreation Grants
 - History or Lake Koronis Grants
 - Park Legacy Criteria for Regional or Statewide Significance
- **Overview of Property Ownership, Park Facilities and Programs**
- **Public Input**
- **Meeting wrap-up**

Master Plan Process Objective

- To provide a vision for the use of Lake Koronis Regional Park.
- Opportunity for the public to share their ideas and comments about the park and what they would like to see provided or improved within the park.



Stearns County's Mission Statement for Regional Parks

“To provide natural resource-orientated parks and outdoor recreation opportunities, that enhance the quality of life of Stearns County residents through physical fitness, community building and economic vitality.”



Regional Park Requirements from State Funding Source

- **Size:** 100+ acres
- **Use:** Evidence the park serves at least a regional clientele (as opposed to mostly local)
- **Recreation Activities Offered:** The park should provide outdoor recreation facilities and activities that are primarily natural resource based.
- **Special Features:** Unique or unusual geologic features, historically significant sites, zoos, or parks containing characteristics that are of statewide significance.
- **Scarcity of Recreational Resources:** The park provides public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available within a reasonable distance.

Regional Park Grants

- **How it works:**
 - Provides matching grants to the public regional park organizations outside the seven county metropolitan area for up to 60% of the cost of acquisition, development and/or redevelopment costs of regional parks. Note: Applicants must be able to fund at least 40% of the total project costs.
- **Eligible projects:**
 - Park acquisition and/or development/redevelopment of regional park facilities including, internal park trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, boat accesses, fishing piers, swimming beaches and campgrounds.

Outdoor Recreation Grants

- *Note: There is no funding currently available for outdoor recreation grants.*
- **How it works:** Provides matching grants to local units of government for up to 50% of the cost of acquisition, development and/or redevelopment costs of local parks and recreation areas.
- **Eligible applicants:** cities, counties, townships, and recognized tribal governments.
- **Eligible projects:** park acquisition and/or development/redevelopment including, internal park trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, athletic facilities, boat access, fishing piers, swimming beaches, and campgrounds.

History of Lake Koronis Regional Park Grant Funding

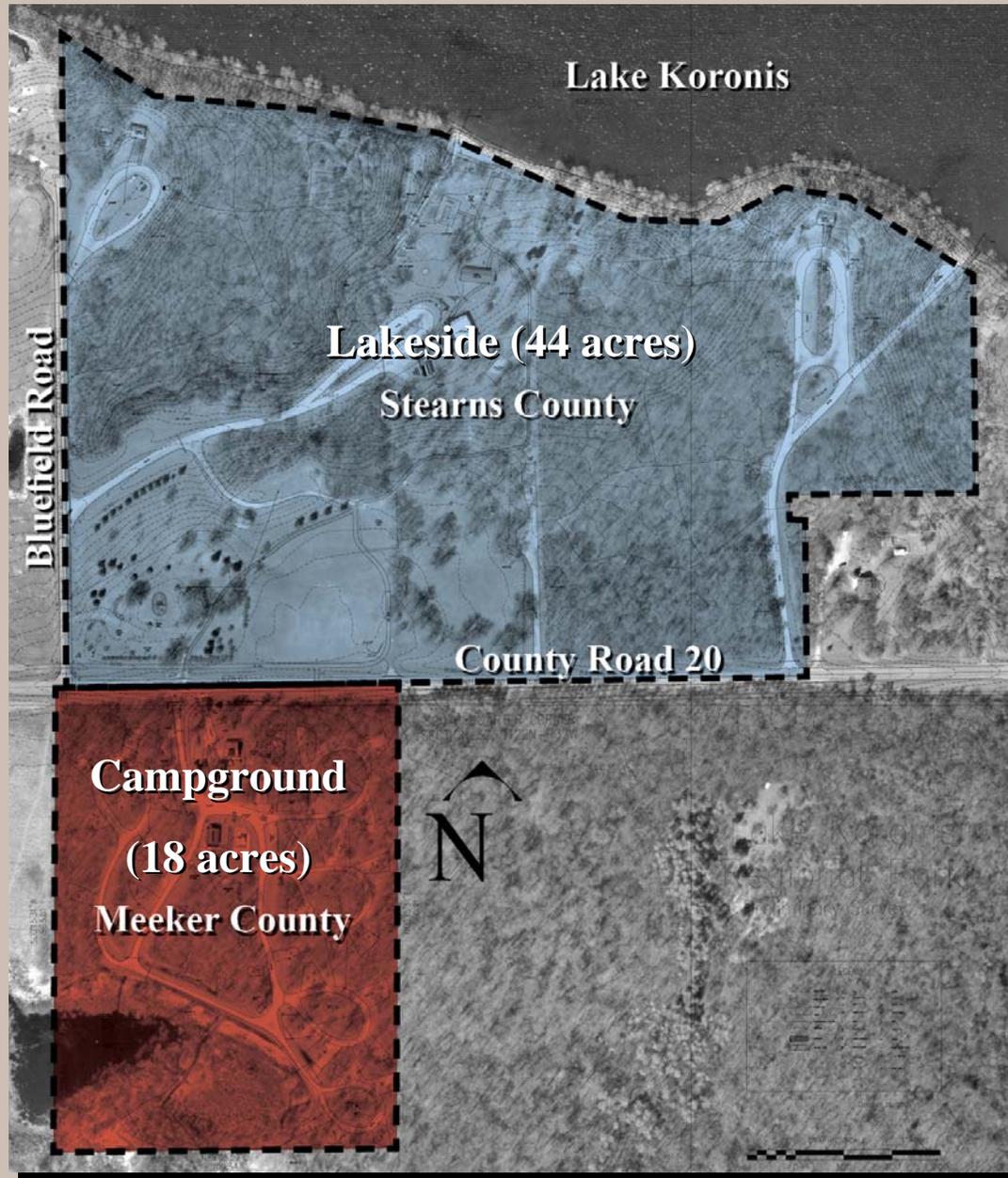
- **Regional Park Grant**
 - 2004 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$34,000
- **Outdoor Recreation Grant**
 - 1972 Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and MN Future Resources Fund (FRF) \$110,250
 - 1973 LAWCON and FRF \$69,450
 - 1980 LAWCON and FRF \$13,000

Park Legacy Criteria for Regional or Statewide Significance

- This grant program is for parks of regional or statewide significance located throughout the state. The ranking criteria for eligible projects may vary depending on priorities established every five years through the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- **Size:** 100+ acres
- **Use:** Evidence that the park serves at least a regional clientele (as opposed to mostly local)
- **Recreation Activities Offered:** The park should provide outdoor recreation facilities and activities that are primarily natural resource based.
- **Special Features:** Unique or unusual geological or ecological features, historically significant sites, or parks containing characteristics that are otherwise of regional or statewide significance.
- **Scarcity of Recreational Resources:** The park provides public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available within a reasonable distance.

Park Overview

- 62 acres located on south side of Lake Koronis
- Shared Ownership between Meeker and Stearns Counties
- Private residences to east and west of park property
- Variety of Ecological Features
- Lake Koronis Recreational Trail – connects to Paynesville



Current Park Facilities / Amenities

- **Swimming beach**
- **Picnic shelter with cooking facilities**
- **Open-air shelters**
- **Observation tower**
- **Boat launch**
- **Nature trail**
- **Playground**
- **Ball fields**
- **Volleyball**
- **Shuffleboard & horseshoe courts**
- **Campground**
- **Free parking**

Shelters: Meeker County manages and accepts reservations for the picnic shelters and auditorium.

Two small open-air shelters:

- open on four sides, electricity available, capacity: 50 people, parking capacity: 30 cars per shelter

One large open-air shelter:

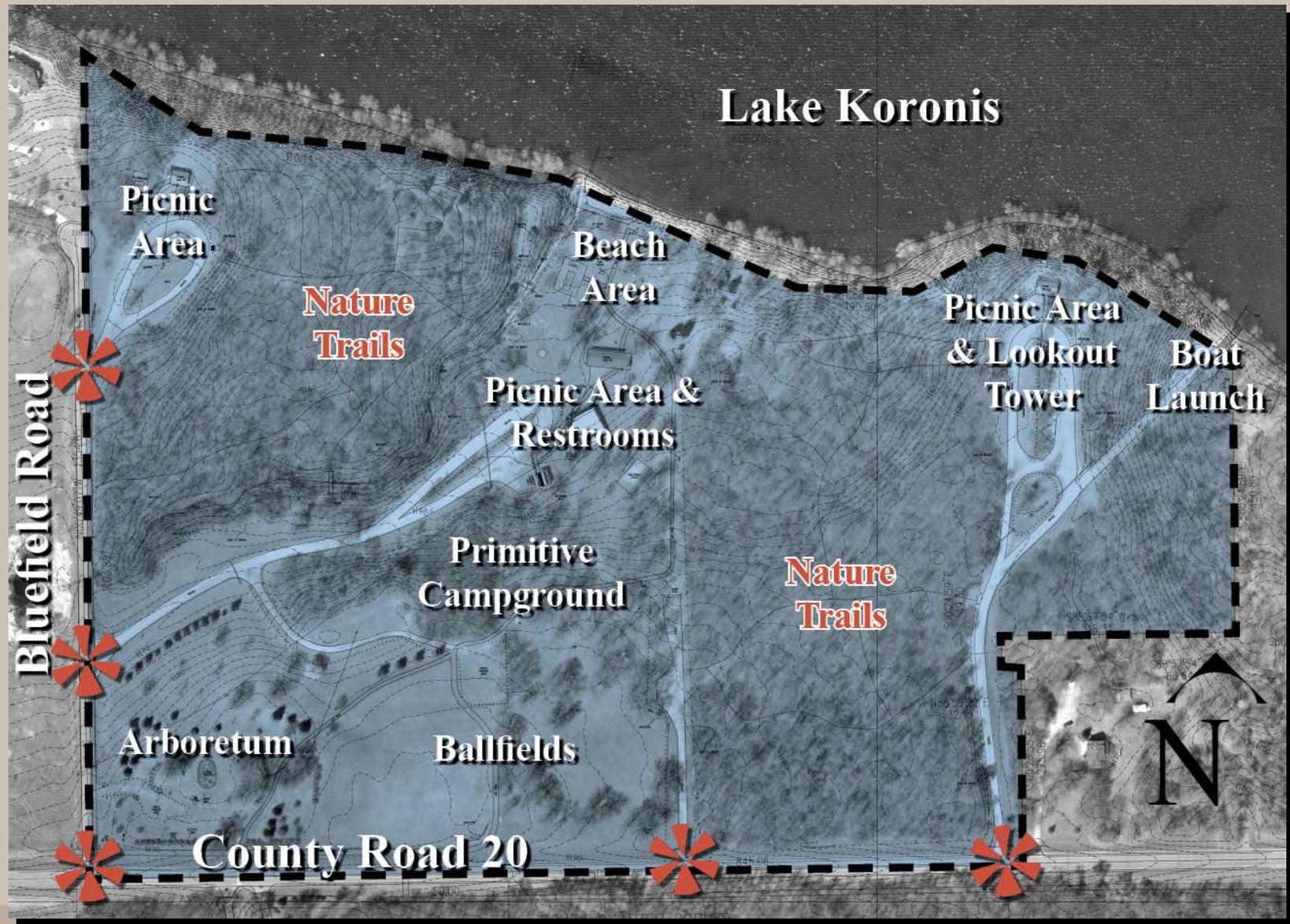
- open on three sides, electricity, stove, refrigerator, and cold running water available, capacity: 100 people, parking capacity: 50 cars

Auditorium: Large shelter

- electricity, stove, refrigerator, and cold running water available, capacity: 100 people, parking capacity: 50 cars

Camping: Lake Koronis Regional Park offers public camping from May 1st through October 1st. The sites are private, wooded sites, and each contains a picnic table and fire pit. The playground and shower facility is located in the center of the campground.

Lakeside – 44 acres



Arboretum & Primitive Campsites



Picnic & Beach Area



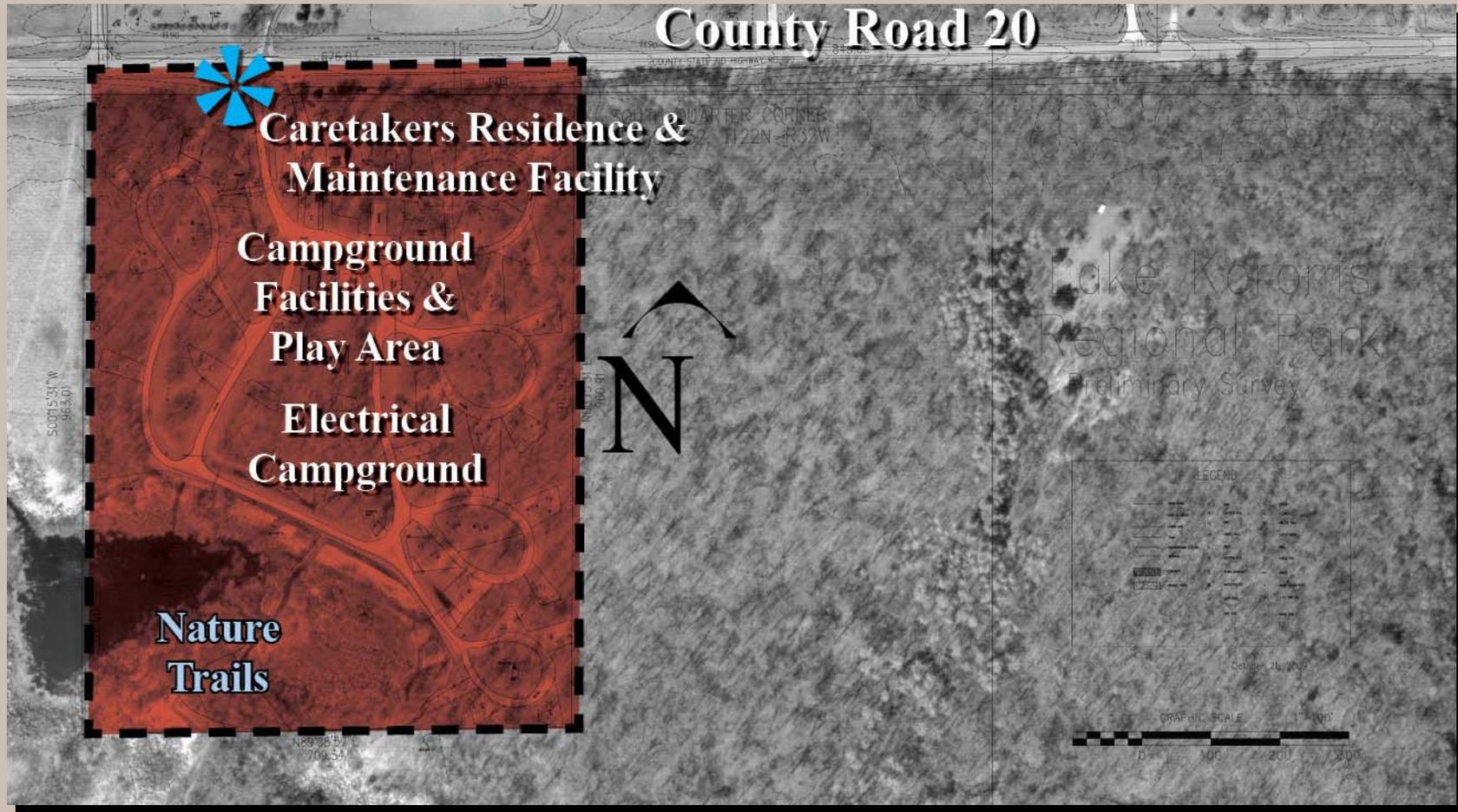
Boat Launch & Lookout Areas



Picnic Area



Campground Area – 18 acres



Campground Entrance / Check-In Area



Campground Facilities



Campground Sites



Proposed Park Program

Lakeside

- **Swimming**
 - improve beach area
- **Boat Launch**
- **Fishing**
 - boat and fishing pier
- **Cross-Country Skiing**
- **Picnicking**
- **Two Large Group Shelters**
 - replace “theater” with shelter
- **Designated ball field for little league baseball/softball**
 - prefer eastern field
- **Multi-Use Recreational Fields**
- **Amphitheater / Fire Pit**
- **Bicycle Rest Area**
 - located close to Lake Koronis Rec. Trail
- **Arboretum**
- **Nature Walking**
- **Play Structures**
 - one exists by campground; one needed in beach area
 - convert western ballfield into play area
- **Scenic Tower**

Campground

- **Camping**
 - rv, tent, cabins, and group
 - rv – 25 exist; 14 tent sites exist; 3 cabins are being requested
- **Adult Recreation Area Geared Toward Campers**
 - sand volleyball by campsites
 - 2 horseshoe pits
 - shuffleboard court
 - basketball court
- **Game room for campers**
 - pinball, electronic games, air hockey, etc.
- **Mini Golf**
 - equipment check in
- **Eliminate Snowmobile Trail along South Side of Park**
- **Emergency Weather Protection for Campers**
 - storm shelter with warning system
- **Campground Store**
 - coffee, doughnuts, pizza, sandwiches and non-perishable groceries

