PLANNING REPORTS
ON
MAINE STATE PARKS
AND
MEMORIALS
1. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - Arthur F. Perkins

(a) Reid State Park  Douglas Hill State Park
     Fort Edgecomb Memorial  Salmon Falls State Park
     Sebago Lake State Park  Aroostook County State Park

2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - Allen T. Edmunds

Aroostook County State Park  Bradbury Mt. State Park
Lake St. George State Park  Sebago Lake State Park
Mt. Blue State Park  Fort Knox State Park
Reid State Park  Fort Edgecomb Memorial

Brief Summary of Suggested Qualifications and Duties of Division of State Park Employees

3. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - W. T. Ammerman

(a) Aroostook County State Park  Bradbury Mt. State Park
    Lake St. George State Park  Sebago Lake State Park
    Mt. Blue State Park  Fort Knox State Park
    Reid State Park  Fort Edgecomb Memorial

(b) Sebago Lake State Park (June 11, 1947)

(c) Sebago Lake State Park (June 12, 1947)

4. MYRON U. LAMB

(a) Reid State Park
(b) Sebago Lake State Park (July 1, 1947)
(c) Sebago Lake State Park (July 5, 1947)
(d) Sebago Lake State Park (July 6, 1947)
May 29, 1946.

Mr. Charles P. Bradford, Superintendent,
State Park Commission,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Bradford:

We are enclosing for your information copy of Park Planner Perkins' report covering his recent field trip with you to several Maine State Parks.

It is a real pleasure to be associated again with the planning of Maine parks. Please do not hesitate to call upon us whenever you feel we can help you with your planning and operating problems.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Thomas J. Allen

Thomas J. Allen,
Regional Director.

Encl. 614
MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region One:

In accordance with your authorization based on request of Mr. Charles P. Bradford, Superintendent of State Parks, Maine, I arrived in Augusta, Maine, on May 13, leaving there on May 17, during which period I visited Reid State Park, Fort Edgecombe State Park, Sebago Lake State Park, Douglas Hill State Park, Salmon Falls State Park, as described below, and spent some time at State Park Headquarters in Augusta.

While in the Augusta Office, Mr. Bradford asked me to assist him in setting up a training project with the Veterans Administration under which an ex service man is coming into the office to assist Mr. Bradford and train in park work as an apprentice under the G. I. Bill of Rights. This young veteran spent two years at Lowell Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, where he took courses in construction, architectural drafting, and surveying, and was recently released from the SeaBees where he gained considerable practical experience in the Pacific. He appears to be very much interested in park work, and should be of great help, but he lacks the training to do the planning work that is required now. The present budget provides only sufficient funds for the Superintendent, his clerk, and the operating personnel on the areas. There are no funds to employ full time design personnel or to hire consultants. It seems particularly important that this condition be remedied at an early date, not only to plan the three new areas, but also to prepare the essential master plans, layout plans, and construction plans for the older areas where this job has never been carried through. Unless this is done, these many fine areas will continue to grow in a topsy-turvy fashion, with developments tacked on and expanded as public use demands instead of step by step development of a logical entity based on maximum utilization consistent with preserving the area for the enjoyment of continuing generations.

REID STATE PARK

Reid State Park comprises an area of approximately 350 acres lying at the end of a peninsula formed by Little River and Sheepscot Bay about 12 miles from Bath, and within a few miles of Georgetown.

The particular value of the area lies in two very good beaches. The main beach called "Mile Beach" is almost a mile long and is backed by a large dune which separates it from a salt marsh and tidal creek which occupies the center of the Park. The smaller beach, known as "Half Mile Beach", is at the southern end of the Park at the outlet of Little River, and is separated from Mile Beach, by a sizeable rocky point. These two beaches, especially Mile Beach, form the foundation for any development of Reid State Park, and are, in fact, the only basis on which this area really qualifies as a State Park.

Due to the nine-foot tides and very large salt marshes, almost one-half of the area is flooded at times. The back lands of the Park are covered with a very thick second growth, predominately spruce, over rocky and cut up terrain. The west
boundary line of the Park runs parallel to the west line of the salt marsh, about 300 feet from it. Every effort should be made to extend this west boundary of the Park to the River. The northeast section of the Park also is very cramped and acquisition of additional shore lines along Sheepscot Bay would be eminently desirable.

Along with the donation of the Park area, there was given a fifty-foot right-of-way almost a mile long, running off the northwest end of the Park and connecting to an abandoned country road leading to Georgetown. It is understood that this narrow right-of-way is a public highway and that the abutting property owner or subsequent owners would have full rights of ingress and egress from a road built thereon.

The original concept of the development of Reid State Park apparently envisioned that the country road would be improved, a road built over the right-of-way to the Park boundary, then continuing across the northeast section of the Park, bridging the very rocky and swift channel, known as "The Canal", thence over the "Griffith's Head" promontory, and along the dune in back of the "Mile Beach" to the southerly promontory known as Todd's Point". Such an undertaking undoubtedly would cost in the neighborhood of $50,000. Disregarding entirely its cost, the road as described above the Park land is believed inconsistent with the best utilization of this cramped area. On the other hand, to construct a road to Todd's Point circling around the north side of the salt marsh would be difficult and expensive.

In donating this land to the State, the grantor, the Seguinland Realty Company, reserved unto itself, its successors, and assigns, six acres of land in Todd's Point to be selected by the grantor at a future date, such selection to be acceptable to the State Park Commission, and subject to the approval of the Governor and Council of the State of Maine, and under the same conditions also excepted one and one-half acres of land in the aggregate in the northeast section of the Park on the northerly side of the Canal, "adjoining a highway to be constructed on said land". In addition, it is understood that the deed provided that the grantor may connect to water supply and sewage disposal facilities provided by the State, if the State Park Commission and the Governor and Council concur. It is understood that there is no stipulation regarding the use of these lands reserved by the grantor. The State apparently will have no say so over the use of the lands or what goes on them. The deed does provide that these reserved lands will not be sold without first offering them to the State for a nominal fee, but there apparently is no restriction as to leasing the lands or facilities which might be provided thereon. Logical development of Reid State Park to best exploit the useful areas for public benefit seems impossible under the conditions described.

Although additional field examination will be required, it appears that a road through the high land bordering Little River along the west side of the peninsula would furnish a more desirable Park entrance. Such a road would lead directly to Todd's Point, which is the most useable and useful area, and apparently would be a shorter route to Georgetown and the "outside". If this entrance can be provided and the reserved land acquired by the State, the following is suggested as a planning basis:

1. Provide a bathhouse on the back side of the dune approximately in the center of the beach area where there is a low spot in the dune furnishing ready access to the beach. The dune flattens out in the back in this area along the marsh,
and a parking area could be provided with an access road low on the back side of the dune to Todd's Point. However, that does not appear essential, and a parking area could be provided on Todd's Point. Placing the bathhouse in the rear of the dune will protect it from the sea and storms, and locating it in the center of the beach will enable the using public to fan out on the beach, whereas if the bathhouse were provided at the end of the beach, users would be more inclined to concentrate in its vicinity.

2. There appears to be adequate camp ground space in the eastwardly section of Todd's Point in the back of Half Mile Beach. This area also would provide desirable sites for cottages if a change in the present policy should permit such developments.

3. There is an excellent site for a restaurant and recreation lodge on the point at Todd's Point.

4. Although somewhat damaged by a fire about a year ago, Griffith's Head furnishes desirable picnic sites and additional picnic facilities can also be provided at Todd's Point.

5. If at some time in the future the demand warrants, and if the policy permits the construction of vacation cabins, a spur road might be developed around the back of the salt marsh to the northeast shore area, which is quite suitable for a campground area, and vacation cabins could be constructed on the lower end of Todd's Point.

If the reserved areas held by the grantor cannot be acquired, and if the State is committed to build the road for which the right-of-way to the northeast was granted, it is recommended that only the following minimum facilities, which will make the area useful to the public without carving it up, be provided:

1. Construct a parking area in the northeast section on the flat land bordering the north side of the Canal.

2. Provide the least expensive type of simple foot bridge across the Canal from the vicinity of the parking area to Griffith's Head.

3. Provide a simple stockade type bathhouse where Griffith's Head joins the beach.

4. Provide picnic facilities on Griffith's Head.

The matter of water supply, of course, will have considerable influence on the development of this area. It is known that fresh water can be obtained near the Park, and it is recommended to the Superintendent of State Parks that he arrange to have the State geologist investigate the possibility of obtaining a source of supply on the Park as close as possible to the potential use areas.

FORT EDGECOMB STATE PARK

Fort Edgecomb State Park, which was visited briefly, is a small area of less than an acre lying on Davis Island in the river between Wiscasset and North Edgecomb. This, along with several other old fortifications, was obtained by the State from the War Department in the early 20's. The Site includes the original blockhouse and fortifications.
At the present time a roadway leads right up into the blockhouse area with a turn­around located right at the blockhouse. It is recommended that, as discussed on the Site, this roadway and turn-around be eliminated and that a parking area be provided adjacent to the Site.

Below the blockhouse on a terrace which forms a part of the fortifications, a neighbor who takes care of the Site has been permitted to build a small replica of the blockhouse. This stand is used to dispense lobster dinners, etc. for picnickers. Although the facilities are certainly well kept and neat, they are definitely anachronistic to the historical picture and should be removed.

Hanging on one side of the blockhouse is an explanatory sign. It should be removed. The provision of appropriate explanatory markers was discussed with the Park Superintendent.

The exterior walls of the blockhouse are shingled. The shingles are hand made and certainly have been there for a number of years, but it seems questionable that this old blockhouse, which was constructed of heavy square timbers, was shingled at a time when it was actually used as a military fortification. It is suggested that the historical records might be investigated and that the blockhouse and Fort area might reasonably and without difficulty be restored to its condition in one of its periods of military prominence. There is on file in the State Park Office a War Department map of around 1812, but the Fort was also active during the Civil War.

An old powder magazine located near the lower gun embrasures adjoining the sea wall has caved in, and a considerable portion has been lost already. If it is not decided to restore the powder magazine, it is suggested that at least what is left be protected from the elements, or very shortly there will be nothing left at all.

SEBAGO LAKE STATE PARK

Sebago Lake State Park is an area of approximately 1300 acres lying at the north end of Sebago Lake, developed by the Soil Conservation Service with W.P.A. labor and leased to the State. The Park actually includes two distinct sections separated by the Songo River and a large parcel of expensively developed private lands.

One section lying on the Naples side of the Songo River was developed as a camp ground. The planned development apparently provided for about 35 tent camps and 15 trailer camps with fireplaces and tables, but it is understood that many more parties than this have been accommodated at times. Bordering the lake is a fine swimming beach, and it is noted that camping is permitted right up to the edge of the beach. Day use is prohibited from this area.

The other section of the Park, located on the Casco side of the Songo River, has been developed as a day-use area primarily for picnicking. It is understood that most of the picnickers also swim although no bathhouse facilities are provided.

The main purpose of the visit was to consider the provision of waterborne sanitary facilities, especially in the camping area. At the present time there is one chemical latrine in the camping area and several in the day-use area.

The question of locating sanitary facilities in the camping area naturally brought up the problem of expanding the camping area. The present facilities are inadequate to meet occasional demands at the present—a condition destructive to the
area and displeasing to the using public and one which will become aggravated in all probability as vacationing increases. Accordingly, it seems wise to plan now for the maximum use which this area should accommodate and to locate facilities accordingly.

The present campground was developed by filling in swampy ground in back of a narrow sand bar which formed the shore of Sebago Lake. It is recommended that the remainder of this swamp land be filled in for camp sites and that the ground now used for camping near the beach be freed entirely for use as a play area.

A rough preliminary study of a possible development for this campground is attached. This scheme accepts the present road system and adds three units of camping space. Each has a free area in its center intended for more spacious living and for such facilities as latrines, laundries, wood storage, etc. Located beyond the knoll at the west of the campground is a similar area of swamp land separate from the lake by a sand bar which can be developed in years to come if additional camping space is required.

Since this campground is on made land only a foot or two above the water level of the lake, sewage disposal is somewhat of a problem. It would be possible to locate latrines on the bordering hillsides, but they would be undesirably removed from the camp sites. It therefore would be better to provide smaller units interspersed among the campsites. It would appear feasible to build such latrines with a high floor level so that a septic tank could be provided close to the building (perhaps under a porch) and projecting enough above ground so that the outlet to the disposal line or lines would come out of the tank at the minimum required below ground level. By using a Tee inlet the tank could be vented through the inflow lines and the vents provided for the toilets. If sand fill is used, the disposal lines should present no difficulty.

The scheme discussed was to pump water from the Sebago Lake to a storage tank located on the top of the knoll immediately adjacent to the lake shore and the west side of the campground. It is suggested that the storage reservoir be located at a higher elevation on the north hillside. Although a little more line would be required, greater pressure and coverage would be obtained.

It is suggested that a community building be provided near the existing parking area on the lake shore. No shelter facilities at all exist at present, and such a building which could include a store and space for community activities is believed eminently desirable.

A site was selected just off the entrance road and overlooking the campground for a ranger residence which is about to be constructed. It might be noted in passing that running water could be obtained for this building from the suggested water storage reservoir but could not from a reservoir located on the first site.

The day-use area provides a splendid reach of beaches and fine picnicking facilities. There are no immediate problems in this area as the latrines can be converted to waterborne type without difficulty and picnic space appears to be adequate for more than the present demand.

However, although it is admitted that almost all of the many picnickers go swimming, no bathhouse facilities are provided with the result that the bathers dress in the cars, the shrubbery, and the latrines. It is understood that there may have been some gentleman's agreement between the Soil Conservation Service and
the Portland Water Supply people that no bathhouses would be provided. Portland
does draw its water supply from Sebago Lake, but Sebago Lake has an area of 49
square miles, several inflowing rivers and streams, and on its shores are several
villages and innumerable homes and summer cottages. Water drawn from the lake for
Portland water supply is treated. It would appear then that one might as well
face the facts and provide dressing space to eliminate the undesirable conditions
previously described.

It therefore is recommended that this might be weighed further and that reasonable
consideration be given either to providing a conventional bathhouse with all of
the facilities and conveniences usually provided therein or small stockade type
bathhouses. These latter would not provide service or clothes checking space and
might or might not be furnished with showers. It is suggested that this type bath
house might be more practical under present operating conditions and that one pair
at the lower end of the beach appropriately sited with regard to the parking areas

DOUGLAS HILL STATE PARK

Douglas Hill State Park, approximately 140 acres in area, is located near Sebago,
about 25 miles northwest of Portland. It was recently offered to and accepted by
the State Park Commission, and the deed is now in the hands of the Attorney General
for final consideration. The area, as indicated by the name, is primarily a hill,
which rises to an elevation of 1400 feet, from the top of which one can see the
ocean, the White Mountains, and some fifteen lakes, which lie in that vicinity.
It was formerly the summer home of Dr. Blackman of Philadelphia, who has always
kept it open for use by the general public as attested by the inscription "Non
Sibi Sed Omnibus", which he cut neatly in a huge boulder at the top of the hill
in 1921. Dr. Blackman also built by himself a small unobtrusive stone tower and
several picnic fireplaces at the top of the hill. The area apparently has been
popular as a picnic ground and vantage point for viewing the surrounding country.
Were it not for its possibilities as a winter sports area, Douglas Hill might
better qualify as a local park rather than a state park, for the view therefrom
while interesting, is not spectacular, and the area hardly will be of much more
than local interest. It is believed that summer use demands can be met adequately
by providing a parking area and picnic ground at the base of the Park, together
with sanitary facilities and water supply, which can be obtained from the springs
on the hill side. Foot trails also should be provided.

Douglas Hill is a natural for skiing and tobogganning, and the entire countryside
is fine for snowshoeing. A ski-tow probably would be required. There is a hotel
at the base of the Park that possibly would stay open in the winter if the Park
were developed for winter sports. As the highways are kept open in the winter,
day use from Portland and other communities probably would be considerable.

SALMON FALLS STATE PARK

Salmon Falls State Park comprises an area of approximately 8½ acres located along
the east bank of the Saco River near Salmon Falls Village. The Park is a gift of
the Appalachian Mountain Club, to whom it was given some 40 years ago. This area
is quite delightful. Although small, it is believed to be a well worthwhile addi­tion
to the State Park Commission.

Through the upper end of the Park the Saco River runs swiftly and turbulently in a
narrow gorge about one-third of a mile long. A foot trail follows along the high
precipitous bank, a wire rope cable protecting the unwary or careless from tumbling
overboard to certain destruction. Below the gorge the river broadens out into a placid stream. Here at a bend in the river there is a good beach and bottom lands which will provide space for use developments. The beach itself borders a sizeable grove of large old pine trees. This is a charming spot, and it was recommended that the bathhouse be located here where it would be handy to the beach and where there is a splendid opportunity for picnicking. Just down stream is another well-wooded area where tent and trailer camping can be provided in fine surroundings with a minimum of difficulty. A wood road now leads down serving both of these areas, and although some changes in alignment and grade may be necessary, the construction of a suitable park road and parking areas will not be difficult.

The State Board of Health has approved swimming in the Saco River, but it is understood that the river cannot be used for the water supply for the area. There are however several springs on the high land not far distant from the suggested developed areas, and it should not be difficult or expensive to provide an adequate water supply.

It seems unlikely that Salmon Falls State Park will receive particularly heavy use and it would be a shame to spoil this delightful area by overdevelopment. The public apparently for years have been used to rambling the foot trails along the river and to coming to the grove area previously mentioned to picnic and to swim. A bathhouse should be provided and sanitary facilities; picnicking facilities should be furnished; and a small area advisedly could be set aside and developed for camping as previously mentioned. Facilities for boating and canoeing also could be accommodated without harm if demand should warrant. Development beyond these facilities, which were discussed thoroughly on the site with the Superintendent of State Parks, is not recommended within the present holdings.

It might be noted in passing that the Maine Central Power Company owns the property on the West side of the gorge. The land along the gorge has been made available to the public for picnicking, etc., and apparently the Power Company at present has no thought of constructing a dam in the gorge. Should they do so at some future time, the Park would suffer irreparably.

PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

The question of providing waterborne toilets on winter use areas was raised by Mr. Bradford with particular reference to Presque Isle State Park which receives a good deal of use for winter sports. The "vogel" type toilet is apparently what he has in mind. In this type of toilet the lowering of the seat activates valves causing the tank to fill up, and raising the seat releases the water for flushing. One of the difficulties experienced with this type of toilet is that many people will not use the seat. In addition there is a cross-connection between the bowl and the supply line which forms a possible source of contamination should the toilet plug up and overflow. It is suggested that pit latrines be used at Presque Isle unless toilet facilities can be provided in a heated building.

/s/ A. F. P.

Arthur F. Perkins,
Park Planner.
June 9, 1947.

Mr. Charles Bradford, Superintendent,
State Park Commission,
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mr. Bradford:

Enclosed is a copy of Park Planner Edmunds' report on a recent visit to your State.

Park Planner Ammerman is now engaged in analytical study of the various development possibilities at Sebago Lake State Park. We hope that within a few days we shall be able to forward to you his report concerning these possibilities. His comments on other park areas in Maine will be prepared after the Sebago Lake study, which we know is the most pressing matter facing you.

We appreciate the courtesies extended Park Planners Ammerman and Edmunds while in your State.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Thomas J. Allen,
Thomas J. Allen,
Regional Director.

Enclosure 871.
MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region One.

In accordance with a written request from the State of Maine for assistance in State Park planning, administration, maintenance and operation matters, Park Planner W. T. Ammerman and the writer conferred with Mr. Charles Bradford, Superintendent, State Park Commission, and Mr. Clyde N. Manwell, Landscape Architect (Tr.), and visited specific areas, from May 22 to 27 inclusive.

The State Parks visited were Aroostook County, Fort Knox Memorial, Lake St. George, Mt. Blue, Fort Edgecomb, Reid, Bradbury Mountain, and Sebago Lake.

Matters relative to design, planning, and development will be covered by Park Planner Ammerman’s report.

Problems concerning the administration, maintenance and operation of the system as a whole were discussed in the central office prior to visiting individual areas, similar problems were discussed as each area was visited.

Four of the State Parks, Bradbury Mountain, Lake St. George, Mt. Blue, and Sebago, are leased from the Federal Government and were developed under the depression born Land Utilization Service. Fort Knox Memorial State Park was purchased from the Federal Government, while Aroostook County, Reid, Salmon Falls and Ft. Edgecomb, were all given to the State. There are nine other memorials, under the administration of the State Park Commission, all of which were given to Maine. A total of 18 areas are administered by the Commission. Baxter State Park is administered by a separate commission.

The areas seen on this trip with the exception of Ft. Knox and Ft. Edgecomb, are for the most part in the early stages of development. The Land Utilization areas have few facilities available for recreational use and each one presents a major problem of development. Reid State Park, a recent gift, has no facilities, and Aroostook State Park needs careful planning and development if a maximum amount of use is to be derived from the area.

Sebago Lake, Reid, Lake St. George, and Bradbury Mountain, in the writer’s opinion are the outstanding recreational areas in the system, and the first two are unusually good.

The State has appropriated for the biennium beginning July 1, 1947, the sum of $118,714.00 or $59,357.00 each year for the development, administration, operation and maintenance of 18 areas. Of this amount $20,000 has been earmarked each year for the development of Sebago Lake State Park. A further breakdown of the budget shows that after Central Office and Commission items are deducted, a little over $29,000 remains to operate the 18 areas. Four Thousand dollars has been appropriated for nine historical areas so we find that the remaining nine areas have about $25,000.
The estimated income from the 12 revenue producing areas, for the fiscal year 1947-48, is $8,830 and $9,905 for the fiscal year 1948-49. Earned revenues may be spent on the area producing them or on other areas, and do not revert to the general fund, however, State appropriations take into account the estimated incomes, which are deducted from total budget recommendations.

It is quite apparent that the sums appropriated for operation are insufficient to provide adequate, well trained personnel, proper maintenance, and sufficient equipment and supplies.

In comparing appropriations among various state departments, it is interesting to note that the Maine Development Commission is to receive $234,500 each year for the next biennium. Recreation is the number one industry in Maine and the tourists' business amounts to an annual take of about $100,000,000. The State is justified in appropriating generously to attract a substantial portion of the tourist trade. It would seem good business to appropriate, on a comparable basis, for the development and operation of the State areas which are being advertised, to meet needs and to assure repeated visits to this vacation State. I would like to cite as an example Sebago Lake State Park, the outstanding area in the present system and indicate what is being done at the present and the possibilities of the area.

From June 1, 1946 to May 30, 1947, Sebago Lake had slightly over 50,000 visitors. Of this amount 44,000 came during the months of June, July and August. Day use visitors accounted for over 35,000 of this number, and the remainder were campers. From November to April there were no visitors to the area. At the present time the park has three swimming beaches, two at the camping sites, and one for day-use section. There are 70 camp sites, five picnic areas, an Adirondack shelter and one latrine.

A custodian and one laborer are the only personnel employed on the area. The budget for the fiscal year is $5,443, and the estimated income is $3,450.

Within a fifty mile highway radius of this area there are about 200,000 people (1940 population figures). From experience gained by the Service in studying the attendance and use of areas in Region One, over a period of several years, it is estimated that Sebago Lake State Park, with a normal amount of facilities, should have about 70,000 dayuse visitors during the three months period. This is just twice the number now being served.

In addition the months of May, September, and October, can, under proper promotion and programming, add substantially to the annual attendance records. School, college and university functions, luncheon club and industrial organization outings, hiking clubs, horseback riding clubs, and many other planned forms of recreational use can be made available during these months. Mid-week use should be stressed and encouraged by personnel contacting organizations within neighboring communities as Sunday use even now is heavy for the day-use area available.

It is assumed that some day Sebago Lake State Park will be developed to the extent of providing adequate picnicking facilities, bathhouse, combination concession and recreation building, additional camp sites, nature trails, play areas, amphitheater etc. Along with these facilities come properly trained personnel, rangers, life guards, concession operators, naturalists, etc. to assure maximum use and enjoyment of the area. The area when developed can provide such regular activities as swimming, picnicking, hiking, boating, fishing, riding, archery, softball, badminton, volleyball, horseshoes, nature hikes, illustrated lectures, nature collections, museum activities and handicraft. Special events could include swimming meets and
carnivals, square and social dancing, musical festivals, dramatics, vespers services, movies and slides, song fests, corn roasts, clam bakes, and events which feature the customs of the people in the surrounding country side and communities.

To operate this area, when developed and supporting as active a program as outlined above, the minimum staff should consist of the following during the summer months:

- Custodian or Superintendent
- Ranger
- 3 Life Guards
- 2 Bathhouse Attendants
- 2 Laborers and additional laborers as needed
- Ranger-Naturalist
- Recreation Director

With adequate facilities, good programming, and competent personnel, this area should have a total yearly attendance in excess of 100,000 people if careful study of the final development plan reveals that this number can be handled without undue damage to the vegetative attractiveness of the area. With this attendance and revenues from concessions and other sources, the area will more than meet its cost of operation and provide funds for other areas in the system.

Maine's State Parks are manned by custodians. Of the areas visited on this trip two, Sebago Lake and Lake St. George State Parks, had a custodian and a ranger. Occasionally laborers are employed for brief periods to assist the custodian on the other areas. The base pay of a custodian is $30.00 per week plus $7.20 to cover cost of living increase. It is impossible for the Superintendent of the State Park Commission to employ and retain more than a first rate utility man on the established wage scale. Only one custodian begins to approach the qualifications for park personnel as outlined in the attached information titled "Brief Summary of Suggested Qualifications and Duties of Division of State Park Employees."

Each visitor to a state park costs the State of Maine 14$. From a survey of fourteen selected states, we have found that the average cost of each visitor is 31$. The wide difference might be explained by less adequate personnel, facilities and developments, than would normally be found on state areas.

Aroostook County State Park is, as its name implies, a county area serving principally the cities of Presque Isle, Caribou, and Ft. Fairfield. An enthusiastic group of skiers and tobogganists in Caribou form the nucleus for winter sports interest. An unfortunate water condition in Echo Lake detracts from the use of the area to some extent during the summer months. If the area is developed to include completion of ski jumps, toboggan slide, ski run, camping area, lodge, bathhouse and enlarged picnic area, a year-round program can be developed which will meet the recreational needs of thousands of people. The State is considering the possibility of enlisting the aid of the present director of the Federally-built Recreation Center in Presque Isle to promote and conduct activities on the area for the three cities.

Because of the local nature of the area and its isolation from other areas of the State and from Augusta, causing difficulties in administration, it might be well to consider the possibility of releasing the area to the county.
Ft. Knox Memorial State Park contains a large, well-constructed, granite and brick fort built over 100 years ago, and is in excellent shape. The underground stairway, curved brick arches, and the circular stairs are of considerable interest. The picnic ground and playground apparatus outside the fort are heavily used. The area has a custodian and employs an occasional laborer. An excellent job has been done by the custodian in maintaining the area. Guide service, information plaques, or literature are not available at the Fort. The custodian has no time for conducting groups through the Fort and is not qualified to do so if time permitted. Nearly 21,000 people visited the area from June 1946 to May 1947. The appropriation for Ft. Knox is $3,651 for the next fiscal year, and the estimated income is $920 making a total of $4,571. It would be very desirable to have guide service during the months from May through September but obviously the present budget cannot provide this service. In lieu of guides, it would be well to have informative literature available, mimeographed or multilithed if necessary and identification and information plaques at selected places within the Fort.

Lake St. George State Park, a Land Utilization area leased by the State from the Federal Government, lies within easy travelling distance of several Maine cities and towns. Its present developments, self-serve bathhouse, concession stand, beach and picnic tables, lie adjacent to State Highway 3 on the lake. The area capable of public use, nearly 500 acres, is on the other side of the highway from the lake, which will be a deterring factor in the use of the area. Camping sites, picnicking areas, playfield, and facilities of this nature can be developed here. Under active promotion and programming this area should draw considerable patronage.

Personnel on the area include a custodian and a ranger. The appropriation for the year is $3,327, plus $1,560 estimated income, for a total of $4,887. From this amount it was urged that a life guard be employed on the beach during the heavy use season. It has not been customary in the past to employ life guards even though the attendance has been as high as 700 on a Sunday.

Mt. Blue State Park, one of the Land Utilization Areas, is divided into three distinct parts; Mt. Blue, Center Hill, and a tract of 200 acres on Webb Lake. The division of this area presents an administrative problem and increases the cost of maintenance and operation. Webb Lake property is nine miles from the custodian's headquarters on the opposite side of the lake. There are two excellent beaches, a ranger's house, picnicking facilities, water, and chemical latrines at this site. The Center Hill site has picnicking facilities at the summit. There are no developments on Mt. Blue. Local interests in Weld are urging the development of skiing facilities at Center Hill. The feasibility of establishing facilities of the type desired appears questionable due to inaccessibility by rail and road, high maintenance and development costs, competition with more desirable winter sports areas, and scarcity of population within travel distance of the area.

Personnel on the area consists of a Custodian. The appropriation for the fiscal year is $2,727 plus $615 estimated income, or a total of $3,342. It will cost thousands of dollars to develop a coordinated area from the 4,000 acres under lease. The possibility of providing camping facilities, organized pioneer and family camping on Webb Lake, and trails, shelters and picnicking facilities at Mt. Blue should be given consideration.

Ft. Edgecomb, consists of a block house fort on the Sheepscot River, a few picnic tables, play area, and concession building (which is a replica of the Fort). The Fort was not open at the time of our visit. A custodian is employed for the summer months and the attendance for the past 11 months has been over 13,000. Total funds available for fiscal year are $1,110.
Reid State Park is the only seashore area in the system. Recently acquired, there are no developments on the area. There are two beaches, one-half mile and one mile in length, respectively. Interior holdings involved in the gift, should be obtained before major developments are attempted. A seashore area is highly desirable and when properly developed will attract thousands of day-use visitors. Every effort should be made to plan carefully for its development in order to utilize the area’s resources to the greatest advantage. Less than $4,000 has been appropriated for the biennium for this area.

Bradbury Mountain State Park, another of the Land Utilization areas, is being developed into a year-round area. At the present time, picnicking facilities, ten sites, trails, observation point, and play space are available for spring, summer and fall use, and a ski slope and tow for winter use. There has also been an attempt to build a ground-surface skating rink.

The area is well located in relation to population centers. Facilities that can be developed for year-round use combined with competent personnel and programming, will attract to optimum capacity.

The appropriation for the year amounts to $1,681 of which $320 is anticipated revenue.

In the forepart of this report it was mentioned that most of the areas in the system are in the early stages of development. A review of appropriations indicates that developments cannot be made for the next two years. If Maine desires to operate a system of 18 areas, adequate appropriations for both development and operation will be necessary. Failing this, concentration on the more desirable recreational areas such as Sebago, Reid, Lake St. George and Bradbury Mt. seems to be the only feasible solution, with historic sites partially supported by revenues from these selected recreational areas.

Allen T. Edmunds,
Park Planner.

In quadruplicate.
BRIEF SUMMARY OF SUGGESTED QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES
OF
DIVISION OF STATE PARK EMPLOYEES

DIRECTOR

Should be selected with special reference to executive ability, experience, special training and skill in park and recreational matters.

The Director should devote full-time to the duties of his office and should be responsible to the Commissioner of Conservation for the execution of his duties and policies. The Director, with the approval of the Commissioner, should employ such other qualified assistants and employees as may be deemed necessary to the efficient operation of a State Park System. All employees of this Division should be directly responsible to the Director.

While it is not possible for one individual to possess the technical knowledge necessary for the efficient operation of each phase of a State Park System, the Director should so inform himself in each field as to be able to make administrative decisions of benefit to the State. Some of the problems to be brought before a Director will involve the following:

Design, Supervision and Construction of Park Facilities
Maintenance of Roads
Building Design
Maintenance of Buildings
Maintenance and Operation of Water Supply Plants and Systems
Fire Protection
Maintenance and Operation of Sanitary Facilities
Utilities
Maintenance and Operation of Recreational Facilities -
   Swimming Pools        Tennis Courts
   Bathhouses            Picnic Grounds
   Bathing Beaches       Others
Land Acquisition
Miscellaneous
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the general administrative supervision and direction, with consider­able latitude for independent action, to investigate, advise or give consultation, review, check, recommend, or report on all landscape archi­tectural projects either in progress, proposed or under consideration, that come within his assigned area.

Examples of Work Performed

Visits, as often as the occasion demands, the parks under his technical jurisdiction to inspect, advise or give consultation, and report on all activities of a landscape architectural or related nature, either in progress or under consideration.

Supervise the preparation of plans, sketches, construction details, presentation drawings and specifications necessary in any phase of land­scape architectural work.

Assist his supervisors in the administration and coordination of all work within his assigned area.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation or training of a progressive qualifying nature which has developed competence comparable to that represented by graduation from a college or university of recognized standing which offers a prescribed curriculum with degree in landscape architecture, including general training in the funda­mental principles of landscape architecture, including general training in the fundamental principles of landscape architectural design, architecture fine arts, horticulture and elementary surveying; a general knowledge of the identification and care of plant materials, including their adapt­ability for various park uses; proficiency in the use of drawing instruments, equipment and materials incidental to the preparation of intelligent, accurate, and legibly presented plans, elevations, sketches, and details; at least three years' progressive, practical experience which shall have been acquired while serving as a landscape architect, conducting a private practice, or shall have been gained while serving in the capacity of a landscape architect on municipal, county, State metropolitan or national park work; provided that not to exceed one year of postgraduate work in landscape architecture leading to a higher degree may be substituted for a like period of experience.
STATE PARK ARCHITECT

Duties and Responsibilities

Under general supervision with considerable latitude for independent or unreviewed action or decision, to perform responsible professional work of moderate difficulty and importance in the forming and development of plans and designs of buildings, or in architectural research, and to perform related work as assigned.

Examples of Work Performed

To prepare, individually or with a small number of assistants, from data secured by others or by himself, scale drawings, including floor plans, elevations, sections and scale details for important buildings or group of buildings.

To plan structural layouts, to coordinate structural factors with the architectural design, and to check finished drawings for architectural and structural discrepancies and errors in measurement and to make the necessary adjustments and corrections.

To serve as squad leader of a small group of draftsmen in the preparation of architectural plans and specifications for buildings or groups of buildings of importance, and to check plans and specifications for submission to higher authority.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation or training of a progressive qualifying nature which has developed competence comparable to that represented by graduation from a college or university of recognized standing which offers prescribed curriculum of at least four years with a degree in architecture, including general training in the fundamental principles of architecture, physics, mathematics, and the ordinary sources of general information required in the performance of professional work in architecture.

The candidate must be accurate, alert, and adaptable, and be proficient in the use of drawing instruments and equipment. In addition the candidate must have at least three years of successful, progressive, practical architectural experience, of which two years shall have been in park and recreational work, or at least one year of postgraduate work in architecture leading to a higher degree, plus two years of successful, progressive, practical architectural experience. Practical experience must have been demonstrated in initiative and resourcefulness, the meeting of substantive technical responsibilities with success, and a capacity for increasingly difficult and important assignments, good knowledge of the principles of architecture, and of the sources on information involved; ability to plan working details, and to supervise the coordinate drafting work, proven capacity for independent professional work in architecture.
ENGINEER

Duties and Responsibilities

Under general administrative supervision with considerable latitude for independent action, to investigate or give consultation, review, check, recommend or report on all engineering projects either in progress, proposed or under consideration, and to perform related work as assigned.

Examples of Work Performed

Planning the location and construction of details of park improvements, such as fire trails, fire truck roads, foot trails, scenic drives, camp grounds, buildings, and water and sanitation facilities; making working drawings and specifications on all structures to be built; preparing the data needed for construction projects; personally supervising construction work and/or directing the work of Park Superintendents engaged in supervising projects being constructed by park employees; performing miscellaneous technical engineering work involved in the proper planning and execution of park development and construction plans and programs; making surveys of proposed new park areas to estimate the type, number and cost of improvements necessary to make the areas useful as a State Park; making reports on work done.

Minimum Qualifications

Training equivalent to that represented by graduation in engineering from a college or university of recognized standing, with major work in courses supporting that field or branch of engineering indicated by the title of the class; not less than three years postgraduate study in that field of engineering indicated by the title of the class, which must have fulfilled the requirements for the degree of Ph.D. or D. Sc., or three years professional experience in such field of engineering, which must have involved the successful development of one or more engineering projects and the preparation of complete engineering plans or full reports of work accomplished and which has demonstrated initiative and resourcefulness. The meeting of substantive technical responsibilities with success. Knowledge of the principles of that field of engineering indicated by the title of the class, and of the sources of information involved; ability to plan working details, and supervise and coordinate engineering work and to prepare engineering plans and reports; and for those engineering positions where the duties are largely research in character; demonstrated capacity for the independent prosecution of productive research and ability to analyze data, draw logical conclusions therefrom, and present results in the form of reports or monographs; proven capacity for independent professional work in engineering; in some cases, proficiency in the use of drafting instruments, instruments of precision and mathematical tables required in the performance of professional work in engineering.
STATE PARK RECREATIONAL PLANNER

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the general administrative supervision and professional direction, with considerable latitude for independent action, to investigate, advise or give consultation, review, check and recommend the need for and the type of recreational areas and facilities which should be developed in the various parts of the State. To be responsible to the Director for the direction of a program of activities which will be in harmony with the environment provided by large natural areas and which will exploit to the best advantage the resources of each of the areas under state jurisdiction.

Examples of Work Performed

Visits, as often as the occasion demands, the parks under his technical jurisdiction, advise or give consultation, and report on the progress and development of recreational activity programs. Supervise the State Park Recreational Directors, assist them in their planning of programs on their areas. To contact those municipal, county and semi-public and private organizations which include any type of recreational activity in their program and to encourage them to use the state park facilities in the conducting of their programs.

Minimum Qualifications

Training equivalent to that represented by graduation with a degree in public recreation from a college or university of recognized standing which must have included courses in economics, sociology, law, research methods, recreational planning, and government, and considerable experience in extracurricular activities; three years' training and experience in public recreation or related matters of such character as to demonstrate fair professional and/or administrative attainments and ability, and qualities which characterize the student and the organizer, except that substitution may be made of one year of graduate work with major courses in one or more of the fields indicated above for each year of required experience up to a maximum of two years; marked ability in determining the selection of appropriate areas and the sites thereon for recreation activities; the location and arrangement of facilities from the viewpoint of their recreational value and use, and the application of detailed knowledge and methods involved in the organization and administration of a recreation program based upon the natural environment factors and the public needs and requirements.
SUPERINTENDENT

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direction of the Director, Division of Parks, to direct the construction, maintenance, protection, and general care of a State park, and to represent the Division in its public relations, and to do other work as required.

Examples of Work Performed

Planning, assigning, and reviewing work, giving instructions, maintaining discipline, and passing upon difficult park problems in connection with the planning, construction, and maintenance of cottages, camp sites, water systems, sanitary systems and other park equipment; supervising the placing of camping parties and the issuance of necessary permits; supervising the giving out of information, the policing of camp sites, and the protection of park properties against fire, destruction and depredation; establishing and maintaining cooperative relations with the public and with officials of other interested public agencies; receiving and adjusting complaints; collecting information desired by the central office; and writing reports on work done.

Minimum Qualifications

Either (1) education equivalent to that represented by graduation from a college or university of recognized standing, three years of experience in work in connection with the care and maintenance of park sites and/or forest properties, or (2) some other equivalent combination of education and similar park and/or forestry experience; knowledge of the procedure used in park construction, maintenance, protection, and general care of forest problems and forestry, including the methods of safeguarding against fire and the invasion of insects and other pests, knowledge of the methods of providing and maintaining proper sanitary and water facilities for parks; some knowledge of topography of the various State park sites, ability to establish and maintain cooperative relations with federal, county, and municipal officials; ability to write concise but comprehensive reports; ability to lay out work for others, to direct them in their work and to get them to work together effectively; ability to size up situations and people accurately, to adopt an effective course of action, and to get along well with others, resourcefulness, initiative, tact, good judgment in matters of forest and park administration; physical stamina, and good health and freedom from disabling defects.
RECREATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE INDIVIDUAL STATE PARKS

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direction of the Recreational Planner, to have charge of the recreational and entertainment programs in a state park, and to do other work as required.

Examples of Work Performed

Planning and directing entertainment and recreational activities, such as campfire programs, hikes, picnics, plays, swimming parties and outdoor games for children and adults; securing the participation of park guests in entertainments; planning programs for visiting organized groups, such as Boy Scouts and YMCA groups; directing community singing and acting as master of ceremonies at campfire programs; acting as host or hostess of the park when not engaged in program work; encouraging organizations in nearby communities to use the facilities of the park during the week days; informing the visiting public of the features and facilities of the park; protecting property from damage; making reports on work done.

Minimum Qualifications

Either (1) education equivalent to that represented by completion of the twelfth grade and one year of experience in directing musical or theatrical programs, or in directing physical education or character building activities (such as acting as playground director or leader of a Boy Scout or Girl Scout, Campfire Girls or YMCA group), or (2) some equivalent combination of education and similar experience; wide knowledge of appropriate outdoor games for children and adults; wide knowledge of songs suitable for community singing at the state parks; appreciation of the types of entertainment programs adapted to campfire programs at the state parks and wide knowledge of the problems and procedures involved in presenting such entertainment; general knowledge of the location and characteristics of the various units in the State Park System; ability to lead group singing and to pitch songs properly; ability to plan and direct varied entertainment programs and direct simple plays; ability to secure the cooperation of guests in planning and participating in campfire entertainments; ability to use good English; ability to deal tactfully and effectively and to act as master of ceremonies at campfire programs; ability to size up situations and people accurately, to adopt an effective course of action, and to get along well with others; integrity, initiative, resourcefulness, tact, reliability, neat personal appearance, pleasing personality, good address, originality, good judgement, and good health and freedom from disabling defects.
NATURALIST

Duties and Responsibilities

Under direction, to perform or supervise the performance of the work involved in the explanation to visitors of the natural phenomena and of the history of a State park or groups of parks, and to do other work as required.

Examples of Work Performed

Studying the history and the natural features, including the geological, botanical, zoological and aesthetic phases of the areas in the State park systems; compiling information and assembling data of interest to visitors; preparing exhibits; delivering lectures and writing articles explaining natural and historical features of the parks; planning, organizing and conducting nature study trail trips and special tours; developing and presiding at campfire programs; explaining to visitors the rules and regulations of the State Park systems; gathering miscellaneous data regarding parks for the central office of the Division; training assistants and directing their work.

Minimum Qualifications

Either (1) education equivalent to that represented by graduation from college with specialization in forestry; botany, zoology, or geology, and two years of experience in park forestry work; or (2) some other equivalent combination of education and similar experience, wide knowledge of the fauna, flora, and geology of the State, and ability to prepare and present popular talks on these subjects; wide knowledge of the State Park system; including the various park areas and their characteristics, and the organization, rules and regulations of the systems; some knowledge of forest protection and fire prevention rules and of first aid, ability to gather and organize technical information and to present it in popular form, ability to plan, organize, and conduct nature study trips and popular campfire programs; ability to design and prepare interesting exhibits on natural and historical subjects; ability to plan and direct the work of others; ability to address an audience effectively; ability to size up people and situations accurately, to adopt an effective course of action, and to get along well with others; ability to prepare clear and concise reports; integrity, initiative, resourcefulness, tact, good address, neat personal appearance; pleasing personality; keen eyesight and hearing; good judgment; good health and freedom from disabling defects.
CUSTODIAN, HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the general direction of the Director, Division of State Parks or a District Park Superintendent, to maintain and care for a State historical site and/or building and museum, and to give out information to visitors; and to do other work as required.

Examples of Work Performed

Planning, procuring, classifying and arranging museum exhibits; meeting the public and explaining the historical significance of the monument and exhibits; seeing that grounds structures, and equipment are kept in good condition; protecting the property from injury and depredation; assisting persons desiring to contribute exhibit material to the museum; and making reports on work done.

Minimum Qualifications

Wide and accurate knowledge of the local history of one or more of the monuments, and ability to state it concisely and clearly; working knowledge of methods used in caring for the grounds, structures, and equipment of the monuments; general knowledge of the State's history and of museum equipment and methods; familiarity with the character of the community in which one or more of the monuments are situated; ability to plan, classify, and arrange museum exhibits and to explain clearly their historical significance to the public; ability to size up situations and people accurately, to adopt an effective course of action, and to get along well with others; ability to keep simple records and prepare reports; ability to follow oral and written directions; integrity, initiative, tact, orderliness, good address, neat personal appearance, good judgment, good health and freedom from disabling defects.
June 25, 1947.

Mr. Charles Bradford, Superintendent,
State Park Commission,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Bradford:

We are enclosing copy of Park Planner Ammerman's report covering his recent visit to certain of Maine's State Parks. Mr. Edmunds' report on the same subject matter was forwarded to you on June 9.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Thomas J. Allen

Thomas J. Allen,
Regional Director.

Enclosure 762.
MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region One.

In response to request from Mr. Charles Bradford, Superintendent of Maine's State Park Commission, for planning, operational and maintenance assistance, the following parks were visited during the period of May 22 to 27 inclusive:

- Aroostook County State Park
- Lake St. George State Park
- Mt. Blue State Park
- Reid State Park
- Bradbury Mountain State Park
- Sebago Lake State Park
- Fort Knox State Park
- Fort Edgecomb State Park

Park Planner Allen T. Edmunds of the Region One Office, Superintendent Bradford, Landscape Architect C. Norman Manwell (Tr.) of the State Park staff, and the writer comprised the study party.

Park Planner Edmunds' report has been forwarded under date of June 9. Prior to the preparation of this report the planning potentialities of the day-use section at Sebago Lake State Park were analyzed. They were forwarded to Superintendent Bradford on June 12.

Superintendent Bradford is considering applying to the Federal Works Agency for a loan to prepare plans for certain park developments. The restrictions contingent with such loans were called to his attention in the event that he should find it expedient to take advantage of any Federal aid offered for state park development in the future. Following is quoted the paragraph in which the FWA defines such restrictions:

"The applicant in accepting an advance for plan preparation must agree that it will not accept any loan from any Federal agency for the construction of the public work planned with such advance unless the making of such construction loan should be specifically authorized by Federal Law."

Lack of adequate funds for both capital improvements and operation of Maine's state parks is retarding their progress. Attendance at the parks is below the normal expectancy, presumably due to the absence of some of the facilities which experience elsewhere indicates is necessary. For example, visitors to a historical monument are stimulated to do so by the fact that State sponsorship implies outstanding significance in State history. Unless a satisfying story of the monument is furnished, the visitor either senses inadequacy, or if an experienced traveler, realizes the shortcomings. Neither becomes a booster for the park. Obviously, a guide with special training and ability is necessary to tell a satisfying story to
all age and interest groups. Similarly, the volume of patronage at recreational
type parks will depend upon the facilities provided to insure all patrons a "good
time", whether they be seeking active "play" type outlets or the more passive
forms. The degree of satisfaction with such parks will be reflected in the number
of repeat visits, particularly by those who must travel any appreciable distance to
reach the area.

None of the parks surveyed have been developed to the extent normally considered
desirable. With an inadequate plant, parks like any other business, seldom pro-
duce maximum income. It is generally recognized that a state park system cannot
be wholly self-supporting. However, it has been demonstrated that when develop-
ment has been carried to the stage where adequate facilities are furnished and
appealing activities are programmed so that all patrons are afforded the opport-
unity of a "good time" income has increased appreciably. Some parks with except-
tional public appeal and located convienlty to large populations have been made
to show considerable profit. Such areas contribute to the support of other worthy
but less fortunate areas in the system. It is known that some parks could be made
to approach self-support if the daily volume of mid-week visitation can be increas-
ed to more nearly equal the Sunday attendance volume. Vigorous promotion work
among women's organizations, children's groups, church groups and commercial
organizations, with mid-week holidays, should be successful in attracting larger
numbers to the parks on week days. Scheduling special events in the early evening
during mid-week is worthy of consideration at parks located close to large popu-
lation centers. Mid-week attractions with appeal to vacation visitors in Maine
might be worthy of consideration also.

To develop a state park two types of planning are necessary. A narrative plan
or program should be prepared outlining, in so far as possible, all the facilities
which should ultimately be incorporated on the park. This narrative plan should
include an outline of the operation policy contemplated. When such a program has
been cleared with all persons or groups concerned, it is ready to be turned over
to the park planner who then will be able to prepare the graphic plan. Approxi-
mate estimates of development costs can be prepared from the narrative plan and
used in requesting appropriations.

Satisfactory master and layout planning can seldom be accomplished without consid-
erable study based on a thorough knowledge of detailed site conditions. It also
is necessary to possess an understanding of the recreational habits and needs of
the visiting public. Proper planning also takes into account preservation of the
area's natural values by distributing and regulating public use. It is necessary
that the operation policy be keyed accordingly.

Parks seldom can be developed satisfactorily by piece-meal planning. Once piece-
meal development is started, considerable courage is required to scrap expensive
developments that are unsuitable. Remodeling usually is more expensive than
initial construction of a similar nature. The planning of no park can be consid-
static, however. It is necessary that it be altered as changing conditions and
use trends dictate.

Small concession stands are operated at Lake St. George, Bradbury Mountain and
Fort Edgecomb. It is the writer's understanding that they are operated by members
of the employees' families as a means of supplementing salary income. Where the
volume of park use is large enough to promote adequate sales, as at Sebago Lake,
and possibly Fort Knox, the State should realize sufficient income from service-
operated refreshment and souvenir stands to justify their introduction. Usually
the public is appreciative of this type of service. State operation of such stands usually is more profitable and satisfactory than operations by a concessioner.

Cursory observation left the impression that extensive winter use could not be expected at this time on any of the parks visited. Those areas that possess physical qualifications suitable for winter sports were not sufficiently accessible to large population centers to attract heavy patronage. There was some discussion concerning the possibilities of building up this type of use at Aroostook County State Park. It would seem that the remoteness of that area will serve to discourage any but local patronage. Beginners' ski trails for local patrons are believed justifiable if they can be furnished and operated without too great cost to the State. Such a slope at Bradbury Mountain already is in operation. Unfortunately ski slopes generally detract from the natural beauty of park areas during summer months.

Where estimates of possible patronage volume are furnished in this report, they are based on the number of people living within a 50 mile travel distance of the park as furnished by the 1940 census count. Study of travel habits of state park patrons has shown that a negligible number will travel more than 50 miles to visit the average park. Other factors such as the natural attractiveness of the area, the economical level of the population from which patronage is drawn, existence of competing recreational opportunities, etc. are also considered when making attendance estimates. However, there always can be influencing factors peculiar to any particular park or locality which are not foreseen and which may cause patronage volume to vary both above or below the normal. Usually about half of the total Sunday attendance will be on the park at one time during the afternoon. That figure will establish the capacity requirements or design load for the area. Circumstances peculiar to a particular locality can alter these figures also. It would be well to check them by actual count over a sufficient period to justify any doubts that may be felt regarding their validity, however. Casual judgement on the accuracy of this attendance trend has proven erroneous.

An appropriate publicity program (commercial establishments call it advertising) will do much to attract patronage to state parks. This is particularly pertinent as regards out-of-state visitors, many of which are looking for just such things as are offered by state parks. The writer was much impressed with the fact that Fort Knox ranks second and Fort Edgecomb third, in state park attendance volume. Both are just off U. S. Highway #1, a heavy traveled tourist artery which would seem to be a controlling factor in attracting tourist visitation. A single directional sign at the point of turn-off from Highway #1 at each park was the only information noted to inform the traveler of their presence. Some states have fastened rectangular metal signs on the standards just below highway numeral markers. These signs inform the motoring public of the number of miles to a state park, along with the name of the park. If it is necessary to turn off such a marked highway, the point of turn-off is appropriately marked. Signs announcing a state park 1,000 yards or so ahead alert interest, and an appropriately designed portal can be as appealing as any invitation spoken by a gracious host. Needless to say, all signs and markers should be of appropriate design and character.

AROOSTOOK COUNTY STATE PARK is about 5 miles south of Presque Isle. A portion of Quoggy Joe Mountain and a section of the shore of a small lake are contained within the park boundaries. Development was started by the W.P.A. during the winter of 1938. Work was stopped by the war before the park was completed, consequently many of the facilities usually considered desirable on an active recreational park are lacking. The area is more than 7 hours train ride from Augusta and consequently it is difficult and costly to administer. Because of its remotness from the heavier populated centers in the State, its use will be local.
To date, appropriations have not been much more than that necessary to maintain a single attendant on the area. Consequently, maintenance has lagged and capital improvements have been limited. A small combination warming shelter and ranger residence has been constructed recently.

Only 4,342 persons visited the park during June, July and August of 1946. Winter sports activities attracted 1,037 persons during January and February 1947. We do not feel sufficiently informed on winter use habits to estimate the volume of that type of use that might be expected there. When properly developed and operated, the park should attract about 350 persons at one time (design load) on a normal summer Sunday afternoon. It should be possible to increase the total weekly attendance somewhat by scheduling special programmed events to attract heavier mid-week visitation.

The lake is infested with leaches, which detracts from its recreational appeal. This nuisance probably cannot be cleared up completely. It might be reduced appreciably by cleaning out the mud in the vicinity of the bathing area and replacing it with light colored sand.

The lake has been created or enlarged by damming the stream a short distance below the park. It would seem important that the State obtain control of the dam unless riparian rights permit the lake level to be lowered appreciably during the summer season. The park will lose one of its principal attractions if the recreational value of the lake is removed during the summer use season.

It is wondered if the State officials have considered furnishing row boats at this park. Other states have found that they have been used extensively at similar areas and have realized a substantial profit from their rental.

The adequacy of the existing picnicking grounds and auto parking space are questioned if the park is developed to attract its potential volume of patronage. Careful planning will be required to accommodate the estimated number of summer day use visitors properly in and adjacent to the area currently devoted to that purpose. The impression was gained that additional property downstream from the present holdings might be required.

The possibility of introducing public tent camping on the park was discussed. The area is physically capable of supporting an attractive campground. Unless sufficient patronage can be drawn from the local population to justify the project, caution in the undertaking is advised. It is believed that potential campers from the more heavily populated sections will not be likely to travel the distance necessary to reach this area.

LAKE ST. GEORGE STATE PARK was partially developed by the Department of Agriculture under its land acquisition program. The lake is quite attractive. If appealing facilities are furnished on the park, we estimate approximately 400 day use patron should be attracted there on the average Sunday afternoon. This would total around 1600 for the average summer week which is not greatly in excess of the volume received during the 1946 season. During that year the same process of figuring shows approximately 285 persons were on the park at one time during the average Sunday afternoon. Our estimate of probable use is based on local population figures and does not take into account possible out-of-state visitors. Undoubtedly some patronage is secured from that group. It seems doubtful that the park, in its present incomplete state, should draw so heavily from the local population alone. If we are in error, we have underestimated the drawing power of the park. Collection of data on its use this summer would be valuable in determining the future facility expectancies and requirements. Conversations with campers should also prove valuable in learning of their needs and desires.
The existing auto parking area was estimated to be capable of accommodating about 60 cars or approximately half the number estimated as required when normal attendance is reached. It probably will be necessary to locate any additional parking spaces, including overflow accommodations on peak load occasions, on the opposite side of the road. If this is done some means should be adopted to protect pedestrians crossing to the section on the lake shore.

An area for organization or group picnicking would have to be placed on the opposite side of the road from the lake. Areas of this sort are most advantageously located when not subjected to undue intrusion by the general public. At the same time they should be reasonably convenient to the swimming area and other facilities provided for the general public. A large open turfed area is desirable for certain group activities. Assistance in planning group activities is also a legitimate service to group picnickers.

The hillside, some 200 or 300 yards back of the beach, appeared suitable for public camping. Whether the provisions of a recreational hall or other attractions would prove sufficient inducement to large numbers of campers to use an area that far removed from the lake warrants advance investigation.

MT. BLUE STATE PARK was partially developed under the Land Utilization Program of the United States Department of Agriculture. Limited picnicking facilities have been provided on a small knob (Center Hill) where an especially attractive lake and mountain view exist. Facility and capacity development possibilities are limited by unfavorable topographic conditions. Park holdings include a portion of the shore on Lake Webb about nine miles distant and Mt. Blue six or more miles in another direction from the Center Hill area. Such a wide distribution of potential use areas impose abnormally high development, maintenance and operation costs.

The park is not located advantageously as regards population centers. The area to the north is sparsely settled. The larger communities to the South are located within normal travel distance of both Sebago Lake and Lake St. George State Parks. It is not likely that sufficient day use patronage can be drawn from the local population to furnish an income that will approach operation and maintenance expenses unless especially programmed features, unforeseen to us at this time, can be introduced to attract visitors in considerable numbers. If State officials share this opinion, it probably would be expedient to limit development to that necessary to meet the needs of the people in the more immediate vicinity. During the period when other more heavily used parks are being expanded, use trends in this Mt. Blue area could be observed and analyzed toward determining its most suitable development program.

REID STATE PARK on the Atlantic coast is the most recent addition to Maine's State Park system. Its possibilities of becoming a popular area are good. The two beaches on the area appear well suited for recreational purposes. Properly developed, the park should attract heavy patronage. Such heavily populated centers as Portland, Lewiston and Augusta are within normal day use travel distance (50 miles).

The donor of the area has reserved six acres in the Todd's Point area near the center of the park. It was roughly estimated that the whole of the high or useable land in this Todd's Point area would not exceed the 6 acres appreciably. That section appeared to be the most desirable in the park. If it is excluded from the park holdings development for the most advantageous public use certainly will be hampered and difficult problems in control might be imposed. The impression was gained from the cusory survey made of the area that without this section development and maintenance costs would be greater than if it were included in the park.
Further study is necessary to substantiate this observation, however. Should Todd's Point ever be developed and operated as a commercial resort in competition with the State Park development, the latter could conceivably lose considerable revenue it might otherwise receive.

It would be well to start the planning of this park as far in advance of the development program as possible. With or without Todd's Point included in the park holdings, careful study will be necessary to take full advantage of the recreational opportunities available. Data could be collected advantageously now on possible beach erosion and safety of the bathing water during various tide stages. Problems pertaining to water supply and sewage disposal should be analyzed at this time also.

BRADBURY MOUNTAIN STATE PARK is a low mountainous park well forested with hemlock and other indigenous growth. It lacks the summer recreational attraction of water. This is reflected in the June, July and August 1946 day use attendance figures which totaled 1,946. Similar figures for Aroostook County State Park were 4,342; Lake St. George, 3,142; Mt. Blue, 4,535 and Sebago Lake 35,572.

The writer was particularly impressed with the charm of the area. However, knowing the attraction water has for the great majority of people seeking day outing facilities, he is not surprised at the difference in attendance volume here and that secured by the other lake shore parks. He also is of the opinion that by a careful analysis of recreational, cultural and educational trends and habits, it should be possible to artificially stimulate attendance by programming appealing attractions that will bring large numbers to the park. There are approximately 150,000 year-round residents living within 20 miles travel distance of the area. This number, together with the summer visitor population, should be capable of supporting afternoon and evening activities throughout the entire week. Events involving visitor participation are usually preferred to those of a purely entertainment character although in some instances the latter is justifiable. In addition to the usual list of things to do on State Parks, ideas for subjects with local appeal may be suggested by the following:

- Fly tying and leather working (moccasins, etc.) along with the usual local cottage type of arts and craft work. Possibly some means might be worked out whereby children could be transported to the park from Portland, Lewiston, Auburn, Brunswick and other smaller communities. It has been done successfully elsewhere.

- Sunday evening vesper services with different churches from the surrounding section serving as hosts.

- Concerts by local musical groups and individuals, barber shop quartet contests, fiddler contests, group sings, etc.

- Movies of nature and conservation subjects or showing of old time silent or flicker films. Many of the large industrial concerns have pictures showing the manufacture of common products that are extremely interesting and educational.

- A little theater producing plays based on local historical events or plays written or adopted from books by local authors in which life in Maine is portrayed, pageants on historical subjects and involving talent recruited from among the local population, etc. If summer evenings are too cool to permit outdoor performances of these types, this item might be voided. Construction of a theater building is not recommended. A simple turfed area with the stage hedged with hemlock could be made to serve satisfactorily.
Amateur stunt nights.

Watermelon feasts, clam bakes or other locally popular outdoor suppers.

Evening hay ride with picnic supper.

Sunrise breakfast parties on the mountain top.

SEBAGO LAKE STATE PARK is proving to be Maine's most popular state park and rightly so. It possesses outstanding natural values. Unfortunately the capacities of the sections suitable for public use are limited. It is entirely probable that State officials will soon be confronted with the problem of having to care for more people than the park can accommodate without damage. When that time occurs it may be advisable to direct the campers to another area and convert the present camping grounds to day use. The considerable distance between the two areas will render their operation comparatively costly.

Under date of May 29, 1946, this office recommended that the camp ground be enlarged by filling a marshy area at its rear. The added useable ground will be valuable for either camping or day use purposes. Filling will destroy some of the existing vegetation. It would be good policy to make the fill soon in order to re-establish a suitable tree planting as soon as possible. Similarly the marshy area on the lake west of the camp grounds might be investigated for future use and if suitable its early preparation is advisable.

Forty thousand ($40,000) dollars has been appropriated to install water-borne toilets in the camping and day use areas during the biennium beginning July 1, 1947. Development study analysis for the day use area was made and offered the State officials under date of June 12, 1947 to assist them in determining upon a suitable long range plan for that area.

FORT KNOX STATE PARK is receiving the second highest volume of visitation of the parks visited. It is a granite and brick structure on which construction was abandoned before it was fully completed. At the time the Fort was visited no guide service was furnished and no means had been adopted to inform the public of the various features in the structure. The State has published a pamphlet explaining its history which will be sold to interested patrons. Erection of explanatory signs throughout the building and grounds to inform visitors of a brief outline of its history and the function of the various structural features, pending the time when guide service can be introduced was suggested.

There are many places where lights would benefit visitors in viewing the features of the Fort. Also there were many places where the illumination of steps etc. was considered necessary for purposes of safety. It is wondered to what extent the State might be liable for accidents if adequate lighting is not furnished.

A small picnic area with some children's play apparatus is furnished on the area. Designs have been made for a concessions building which the State hopes to build soon.

A recently constructed road cuts through the picnicking grounds and circles the fort. Two parking spaces are provided. One is at the entrance to the fort. The other is in the picnicking area. A possibility of shortening the length of park road, combining all parking in one space and removing the road that now divides the picnic area was called to the attention of the State officials.
It is believed the volume of use, particularly from the tourist group, could be materially increased by the use of informative signs along the highways leading to the park. The 1946 route map issued by the State Highway Commission does not show the park.

FT. EDGECOMB STATE PARK was visited briefly. A report advising on the development of this area was prepared under date of May 26, 1946. The writer has no suggestions to offer that are not contained in that report.

Work has been started on construction of the parking area recommended in the above-mentioned report. When it is completed, the loop turn in front of the fort will be removed.

/s/ W. T. Ammerman

W. T. Ammerman,
Park Planner.
Dear Brad and Norman:

I've been hoping to get some more leisure time to write you all and thank you for the very pleasant time shown Al and I. Personally it was a compliment to be asked to help with Maine's problems. Just hope I can be sufficiently helpful to justify the confidence.

Before preparing my general report I went to work on planning studies for Sebago Lake day use area. The tracing containing those studies is at the printers and will be forwarded this week. I did not make any one specific recommendation. Rather I included several possibilities on the same sheet. You folks should view them as individual solutions or you can by shifting roads, etc., some put parts of two or more solutions together. I realize that it will be sometime before much beyond toilet construction can be initiated. However it is necessary that you fix a development plan for the ultimate now before any further construction is carried out.

Please don't hesitate to ask any questions, raise objections or what have you regarding this or any other park in Maine. We here are just as anxious to obtain the best possible results there as you are.

Back to Sebago — The parking area capacities shown more nearly fit unsupervised parking and twelve foot per car. It may be possible and desirable to split the parking area east of the bathhouse and put part of it across the small stream. One could go on indefinitely shifting things about. You folks who hold the responsibilities for the final product and who are most familiar with the situation generally are in the better position to make the final selection of development scheme, parking area capacities, etc. It has been my objective to point out as many solutions as possible.

Park development if properly carried out are expensive. Best of luck and let's hear from you from time to time.

Sincerely

/s/ Ammerman
June 12, 1947.

Mr. Charles Bradford, Superintendent,
State Park Commission,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Bradford:

Enclosed are some comment notes on the planning of the
dayuse area at Sebago Lake State Park by Park Planner W. T.
Ammerman. A comment sketch study outlining several develop­
ment possibilities for that area with explanatory notes is
being forwarded under separate cover.

Mr. Ammerman's report covering other state parks surveyed
during his visit to Maine will be forwarded soon.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Elbert Cox

Elbert Cox,
Associate Regional Director.

Enclosure 752.
MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region One.

Sebago Lake State Park in Maine was visited May 27 in company with Park Planner Allen T. Edmunds of this office, Charles P. Bradford, Superintendent of Maine's State Park System, and his assistant, C. Norman Manwell. The legislature has appropriated $40,000 for capital improvements on this Park during the biennium beginning July 1, 1947. It is expected that most of this money will be spent on providing water-borne toilets in the camping and day-use section, it is necessary that a general study outlining the ultimate development of the park be adopted. It is also imperative that public use be controlled and destructive wear which has been experienced in the past be corrected. Attached is a comment sketch outlining some development possibilities which may be helpful to State officials in their planning study of this section of the Park.

During the 1946 season this day-use area attracted 2,383 persons on the average Sunday with a peak load of 3,912 on the Fourth of July. On this basis, approximately 1,200 people would be on the park at one time during the average Sunday afternoon. This figure has been used as the design load in figuring our study for facility requirements. It is about the maximum number the area can accommodate repeatedly without excessive wear. It is neither economical nor advisable to develop an area to meet the occasional peak load. Suitable overflow parking space and extra clothes checking accommodations in the bathhouse are the only facilities above normal capacity use that are justified for such occasions.

In the past, patrons have been permitted to concentrate in a limited section on the beach front. While autos are not permitted there now, it is thought that they might have been allowed in the past. Existing parking areas are not spaced to encourage an equal distribution of use. Picnic tables are light in weight and are moved about as the desires of the patrons dictate. It is possible that some fill may have been placed in the area which could have altered growing conditions and be a factor in causing the vegetative failure. The area is badly worn, whether caused by any or all of the possible causes enumerated. Unless deterioration is stopped it will eventually spread to other sections and the public appeal of the Park will be lost.

To stop this destructive wear it is recommended that effort be made to encourage patrons to distribute themselves more equally over the entire usable sections of the Park, introduce walks along lines of heaviest circulation, remove picnic tables from the center of the beach and anchor them so that they cannot be moved from the sites selected.

Since it is impractical to rest the worn section, it is believed that the soil there should be replaced, existing trees fertilized and an effort made to establish a turf on as much of the area as possible. Replanting with large trees capable of withstanding the use to which the area is subjected is desirable. It would be well to consult with the State Forester on matters pertaining to the care and planting of trees. The County Agricultural Agent should be helpful in advising on soil and turf problems.
Most people will be attracted to the Park because of the lake. However, only about 50 or 60% of the visitors can be expected to be swimmers. Of this number about 80% will use the bathhouse. The remaining 20% either will wear their bathing suits to the park or will find means to avoid paying a bathhouse fee. On this basis, a bathhouse capacity of about 960 persons (365 women and 575 men) would be required. Nine Hundred Sixty (960) Sunday bathers or close to twice that number for the average week under present operation policy should be capable of supporting the operation of a bathhouse, paying for necessary life guards and providing a substantial profit after maintenance costs have been deducted. A bathhouse is recommended and an advantageous site is included on the attached comment sketch study. If a vigorous promotional program is introduced and the mid-week attendance increased materially, profits would be increased substantially. Usually it is necessary to maintain the week-end staff throughout the week.

A print of the bathhouse constructed in the Six Penny Creek area at French Creek Recreational Demonstration Area, Pennsylvania, was forwarded to the Superintendent of Maine's State Parks under date of June 21, 1946. It appears that that plan might be adjusted to be built around the toilet now located on the beach if circumstances demand. However, we believe the bathhouse would be better located if moved about 100 feet farther away from the beach in order to obtain maximum use of the beach area. The plan mentioned above approaches the capacity requirements at Sebago Lake.

The accompanying comment sketch study outlines more than one development solution. Combinations of solutions suggested are possible with slight variations in those shown. It is recommended that a number of prints be secured and that each possible development scheme be outlined in colored crayon on a single print for analytical study. The comment study contains explanatory notes. If any additional information is desired or the State should want to discuss details not clearly explained it is hoped they will feel free to do so.

The area now is receiving about the maximum number of visitors on Sundays that it can support without being worn out. In fact, it is necessary to organize and distribute the use more equally over the useable area than has been done heretofore to prevent destructive wear. We have placed the auto parking spaces in the low sections on both sides of the bathhouse in an effort to encourage folks to distribute themselves toward the extreme ends of the beach. Some filling probably will be required to raise the ground elevation and provide proper surface drainage. By providing a 25 foot planting strip between the parking lanes these parking area will appear less denuded and some shade will be afforded patrons' cars. Planting strips also offer an opportunity to introduce walks to lead pedestrians to the beach and other centers of concentration with a minimum of conflict with vehicular traffic.

Facilities for group or organization picnicking are proposed in the western end of the Park away from the family picnicking area and swimming beach. The site of the parking area shown on the comment sketch was not visited. Site study may suggest some modifications. We have purposely shown this parking space broad-side to the large point of land on the east. Our thought is that many times two groups may be using the area and they could be allotted facilities in the northern and southern sections of the area which would avoid possible conflict in their programs, etc. It is natural to enter and leave parking spaces parallel to the lanes rather than across them. A picnic shelter and toilet facilities in each of the two sections described will be appreciated by group picnickers and assist in directing use to the desired locations.
We have endeavored to show vehicular systems that are capable of offering single control points. Should the present privately-owned property to the east of the Park be developed as a hotel or other commercial enterprise, the present remote contact station may be voided, in which case, relocation of the public road to the north of its present position would be necessary. The present road could then become an interior park road exclusively and control over access to the Park developments affected.

It would be well to collect as much data on the park's attendance and use as possible during the present summer season. It would be valuable to know how many people the average car brings to the park, when they come and when they leave, how many are bathers (each sex), the percentage of bathers in the water and elsewhere on the park, how many picnic, and what are their occupations when not swimming or picnicking. It would also be valuable to learn what patrons would like to do in addition to the picnicking and swimming now furnished and what should be provided on the area for their more complete enjoyment.

/s/ W. T. Ammerman

W. T. Ammerman,
Park Planner.
Mr. Charles P. Bradford,
Superintendent of Parks
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mr. Bradford:

Enclosed you will find a brief report on the Reid Park property at Georgetown, which I hope will not be out of order at this time. It seemed to me, after several days spent tramping about the property, that a report of some kind must be written, if for no other reason than to give me an opportunity to express my appreciation of the value of such a magnificent piece of property to the citizens of the state.

In regard to making an estimate of preparing plans for the development of the park, a number of nebulous items must be considered. At this stage of things, for example, a designer does not know how much property will be involved in his plans. He can have no idea of how large an expenditure of State funds he must plan for, even in the first year's development. He may decide in his own mind that certain items of development are basic and estimate the cost of planning them, only to find in conference with the Park Commission that other items should be stressed.

It is true that the State has been given a grant of about six hundred acres, but there are six hundred more acres which should be considered in even preliminary studies, if they will eventually be incorporated in the park. In Mr. Reid's present state of mind, there is some doubt, unless the State makes a concrete gesture in the direction of actual development, whether or not the state will ever acquire the additional six hundred acres.

I believe, however, that your chosen designer should include the additional grant in his preliminary studies, even, because that property may be the key to the ultimate location of administrative and service areas for the entire park, and it would seem unfortunate to develop a set of plans involving the original grant only, when they might need basic alterations after the acquisition of the additional property.

It seems to me that the members of the Park Commission should understand, then, that any figures submitted are based on nothing concrete which a designer needs to make his estimate.

Plans to cover a first year's development should include administrative and service facilities, entrance road, parking areas, picnic areas, sanitary facilities, water supply, etc. Sufficient basic planning should be done in connection with the entire area so that the location of the various facilities will be properly integrated with more detailed planning for special portions of the property as the work of development goes on in future years.

Before any planning can be done, certain engineering data must be obtained which will be of value in future years as well as a necessity at the moment.
At the risk of appearing in the position of one who cannot properly estimate his costs, I offer the following figures as probable costs of doing planning for the Reid State Park:

### FOR FIRST YEAR'S DEVELOPMENT

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<tr>
<td>Administrative Areas</td>
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<td>800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dam at Canal</td>
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<td>800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roads, Parking Areas, Picnic Grounds, Concession areas, Lagoon development</td>
<td>2500.00</td>
<td>3000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanitary Facilities</td>
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### FOR FIVE YEAR PROGRAM

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</table>

The above figures are based on a development program which would total $400,000 to $500,000 over a ten year period. The cost of planning such a program over ten years would probably reach a total of $15,000 to $20,000.

The heaviest planning cost in proportion to the amount of money spent and the amount of work done would be in the first year when a general scheme for the entire area should be roughly established.

As I said in the beginning of this letter, any figures can be only tentative because the program is so indefinite.

Most sincerely yours,

/s/ Myron U. Lamb
REID STATE PARK

The following is a brief report on the property of the Reid State Park and expresses some thoughts of mine in regard to its development.

The State of Maine, in the Reid State Park, possesses a magnificent property. Within its boundaries it contains features which no sea-side park in the country can surpass and few, if any, equal. Its location could not have been chosen deliberately by State authorities better to serve the most populous portion of the State, and its various areas are admirably suited to provide recreation for great numbers of people.

As the plans for development progress, it seems to me that it is of supreme importance to remember that in the Reid property there lies a beautiful unspoiled portion of the Maine coast which should be preserved in its native character as far as possible; and that all development features should be so planned that they will recede into the background of beach and dune and ledge and forest growth. Thus a sympathetic approach to the preservation of landscape values is basic in any planning undertaken.

All buildings should be in character with the best to be found in the sea-coast villages in the region. Perhaps, with so much good loose stone on the property, the old stone schoolhouse could be taken as the model for park buildings. Two ends would be served: the construction would be permanent and the style of architecture would be in keeping with excellent old practice on the property.

Roads should be wrapped about the terrain, with due regard for safety of flow of traffic, but so located that they will preserve interesting rock formations or stands of large trees or take advantage of the views. Planning of the roads is more than a strictly engineering problem of line and grade or a matter of the most direct circulation. The roads should carry the public to areas of intensive use, but should do it so that they are not conspicuously cut through the property as much highway construction is likely to do. All shoulders and edges of cuts and fills should be so graded that their surfaces mold naturally into the adjoining terrain, and a planting program should be planned which, while not elaborate nor expensive, would restore to all regarded areas the kind of ground-cover found around about. It is far better in planning park roads to let them bend and turn naturally than to drive them rough-shod over the landscape. Such roads cannot give pleasure in themselves as more sympathetically laid out roads can do.

I will cite a case in point. Some years ago, a short distance outside a Florida city, there was an undeveloped road which achieved a reputation for its remarkable beauty. Colored postcards of portions of it were sent all over the country. It was a narrow road, overhung by huge live-oaks which were heavily festooned with Spanish moss. The trees were so old and the moss so long that the road had acquired an almost unearthly beauty.

Its troubles came when so many people drove out to see the beautiful place that the little road became inadequate to handle all the traffic. The highway engineers fixed things. They widened the road which meant cutting down the old trees and with them disappeared the reason for the traffic on the road. The State of Florida had a new piece of modern highway with no reason for being and priceless ancient beauty had been destroyed. Park roads should enhance, not destroy, landscape values.
The property seems to have been designed by nature for the enjoyment of people of all ages. For the cost of one large masonry swimming pool, I believe it will be possible to develop safe wading and swimming facilities for small children in great numbers with hundreds of feet of good sand beach along the shores of the large lagoon. A dam with tide-gates, which would also serve as a base for a road, could control the water level and make available for all-day use a huge, warm, safe swimming pool which could accommodate hundreds of children at one time.

The lagoon itself is an unusual landscape feature and in time might be encircled by a road which would approach the shore at intervals. It must at present be a good breeding ground for ducks as I saw many flying, and any road should be far enough from the shore line so that the movement of traffic would not be a constant irritation to wild-life.

I believe that careful study will show that a road parallel to Mile Beach may not be desirable. Such a road would be an immediate solution to a circulation problem of getting as many people as easily to the beach as possible. In my opinion, a complete circuit road is not desirable in the property. It seems to me that a road parallel to the beach would do much to destroy its character; and I believe it would be a hazard to children who should be able to enjoy the beach and the lagoon without their parents having to worry about their being injured or killed by constantly moving vehicles. It would seem more desirable to have the roads carry traffic to the ends of Mile Beach with large parking areas on the high firm ground, than to add the hazard of moving traffic so near the play areas.

The high land bordering the marsh by Little River offers good opportunity for day use picnic grounds near the beaches while areas farther to the rear could be developed as camping sites.

Some of the best portions of land for a State Park are to be found in the additional six hundred acres which have not yet been deeded to the State. Although they lie inland from the shore, the land is high, heavily wooded for the most part, with interesting ledge formations and beautiful tree and shrub growth. This part of the property could be developed beautifully into camping sites, nature trails, wild life sanctuary, and there is even an excellent opportunity for a large playing field if such should be found desirable. I am told that the highest portion of this land was formerly very sightly, when the trees were cleared many years ago, and commanded magnificent views of the coast both East and West. It is possible that in some portions clearing could be carried on in such a way that some of the scenic possibilities could be restored. Such work would lie considerably in the future, I should say.

One problem in planning which will require the establishment of basic policy by the Park Commission is the problem of concessions. Once the park is in operation with crowds of people flocking to it, there will be many demands for concessions of various sorts. I believe that all forms of concessions should be under the strict control of the park administrative officers, and that all profits should be turned to the advantage of the park. The returns could be large. It is possible and probable that eventually it will be wise for the State to build eating places, possibly cabins, certainly bath houses where bathing suits could be rented. I believe that in time, not only will the park be self-supporting, but that it will be able to provide funds for its own development.
I have found it to be true that few people appreciate anything they receive for nothing. If they have to pay for something, they appreciate its value more. I believe there should be an adequate fee for the privilege of using the park facilities. With such a recreation area within one and a half hours driving time from Portland, there is no doubt in my mind of the intensive use to which the park will be put.

In the beginning of his work, therefore, your designer must have a fair idea of what may be the policy in regard to concessions, as he must consider possible sites and areas to be allotted to them.

One problem which must be solved most carefully is that of sanitation. Not only must the beaches be protected against pollution, but it is also highly important that the water of the lagoon be preserved from contamination and the various clam flats on the property be protected.

The water supply would seem to be a matter of driven wells. The region is said to abound in water-bearing strata and adequate supplies should be obtained with no difficulty. I believe that it is impracticable to try to obtain water from the Ice Pond, so-called. It is full of vegetable material and would be unfit for drinking without chlorination, even if the supply in dry weather were adequate.

In my study of the property, I was struck by one fact which I must mention in this report. The property needs policing at the present time to protect it from fire. Knowing that there is such a thing as Reid State Park, many people try to drive to it. Last year a fire was set in a barn on one of the old farms and there was serious threat of great damage before it was put out. Careless youngsters or people ignorant of campfires could start fires that would do irreparable damage to the property, and there is now no road passable to fire-fighting equipment if a fire should start. To protect its own property, it seems to me that the state could provide money from the contingent fund at least to carry a road to the canal. The cost would not be great, certainly not in proportion to the value of the property which is, truly, priceless.

Finally, it seems to me that the people of this state have a moral obligation to Mr. Reid to do something concrete in the development of this park while he is still alive, which may not be long. It is certain, also, that the people of the state need the facilities for recreation which the park can provide. There are very few spots on the Maine coast which are available to the public. Too many of us have been confronted too often by the familiar "Private Property. Keep Out". I think every device that can be thought of should be used to start development of this unusual property. Through Mr. Reid's generosity, Maine possesses a park which other states would long since have developed for the benefit of their people.

Although the park property lies in the Southern portion of the State, it is certain that all the people of the state will benefit from its development, either directly or indirectly. Its greatest benefit will come from its use by our own public, but it will also be another attraction to visitors from outside of Maine who come here to "Vacationland", as we advertise ourselves, and leave behind them the money that provides so much of our State income.

/s/ Myron U. Lamb
Mr. Charles P. Bradford
Superintendent of Parks, Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Bradford:

I told your assistant over the phone that I would send you my material on the Sebago Park by the first of this week, but I have had a new idea or two since I talked with him and am making some changes. The Reid Park business held me up, too, as I've spent several days down there.

I will pass this on, however, in regard to the water supply, although you will receive about the same again. In going into the matter of driven wells, underground water sizes of points that might be used in the Sebago Lake country, I find, first, that such a system would be eminently practicable. The Portland Water District is supplying North Windham with water from a series of seven two inch points about twenty-five feet apart connected in tandem to one pump. They have been pumping steadily for about ten years with no trouble at all. These points are down only to about 12 to 15 feet.

For your purposes, the best practice would be to sink an eight or ten inch iron pipe with a 4 or 6 inch screen inside surrounded by coarse gravel if too fine sand is encountered in the ground. The most likely depth would be about 25 feet, as at that distance there would be no danger at all from pollution, so the water people tell me. Thus you would have a good supply of drinking water as well.

Where you need only 1500 gallons an hour, probably 2 wells would serve your purpose as you could expect about 15 gallons a minute as a minimum. With luck, and I feel that you might well have it there, one casing might be sufficient. The cost of one such well at a 25 foot depth would be about $500.00

There is no doubt whatever that you would obtain all the water you need, and at that depth, you need not fear pollution of your supply.

Norman quoted the State water people as saying there might be danger from pollution over a period, in which case, I should think your present well might be in danger. With the driven well and that depth, I cannot see danger to your supply.

You see, I am persistent, in trying to find a way to keep that tank and pump house away from the shore and my favorite ledge! I do not wish to be so impractical as to ignore practical considerations in such a matter. However, if there is a comparable alternative scheme which might better serve your needs, I would like to see it used and keep the shore free.

You could under this scheme put your pumphouse anywhere that was most convenient, and go on from there. You might be able to supply several points with water for the same amount of pipe you would use under the present scheme. More on this later.
I suppose you must have estimates on the cost of doing the work on the scheme you have sent me. Will you check against it the cost of doing it with a couple driven wells? It might work out well.

It seems to me that the driven wells look very promising for the day-use side of the river.

Shall you be in your office on Monday? If you will not be, would be willing to send me word to that effect, by special delivery or collect telegram, or something?

Most sincerely,

/s/ Myron U. Lamb
Mr. Charles P. Bradford,
Superintendent of State Parks,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Bradford:

I have written you previously in regard to some information I have obtained in regard to water supply, and as that was the principal item which we discussed, I'll return to it first.

The drawings and specifications seem to me to be admirably complete for the work you propose to do. I have made a few suggestions for the specifications as will be noted on the copy which I am returning to you. There were a few errors in typing which I have noted. They were minor, but in one or two instances altered the meaning and such small things can cause trouble with the wrong kind of contractor.

Since the work will not be started until after Labor Day, I think provision should be made that the work be completed by November 15th, or December 1st at the latest. Other provisions would protect the contractor against delays caused by the owner, and another provision should be inserted enabling the owner to take over material and equipment, in case of unnecessary delay by the contractor, and complete the work himself.

I have looked into the matter of water supply at some length, and I believe that several ends would be served by obtaining it from underground. Of course, there is a very large lake at hand with millions of gallons of water, but I think that is not all the story.

1. There would be about 700 feet less pipe to lay.
2. There would be no rock excavation.
3. There would be no maintenance in regard to the supply pipe and there will be an annoying amount, I believe in the scheme as proposed, both spring and fall.
4. There will be less power line as an item of expense.
5. The cost of the pipe and laying it from pump house to latrine could be applied to servicing another latrine, if the pump house were attached to the present latrine, or otherwise centrally located.
6. The water obtained would be good drinking water, and could be pumped to a number of points about the camp grounds.
7. The work could be completed more quickly.
8. There should be a considerable saving of money, in the opinion of several people closely in touch with construction costs.
9. And not least by any means, it would keep pump house and tank away from the shoreline, and I think that is an aesthetic point seriously to consider. The site is an interesting formation, quite picturesque, and it does seem unfortunate to erect any structure upon it.

I believe that comparative estimates of cost could be quite readily obtained.
Considering the sandy nature of the terrain, the entire region is a natural filter bed, and there should be no danger of contamination.

I mentioned sinking a casing to enclose a screen through which the water would be pumped. It might not be necessary to do that. It would all depend on what was discovered underground.

In connection with your obtaining a water supply and converting your latrines from chemical to flush type, I think you would save a considerable sum if you could manage to obtain two year's funds at this time and let the entire work as one contract. I understand that the Legislature makes an appropriation to cover two years. Since the work will be done, would it not be better serving the public and saving money for the State, to figure the whole matter as one contract instead of having to duplicate your own effort during a second year. I think one contractor would give you a better price than splitting the work over a longer period and possibly have a second man do the second half. No private client could afford to work that way if he knew that the funds were ultimately available.

Several matters have occurred to me in regard to the camping area, and I'll refer to them in a report which I enclose. Separately, I enclose a study of some additional facilities which I made in connection with the Songo Beach Area.

I have enjoyed this opportunity again to be working with problems concerning the Sebago Lake State Park as there is nothing of greater professional interest to me, for reasons which you well know, and I hope my efforts will prove to be of some assistance to you.

Most sincerely yours,

/s/ Myron U. Lamb

A pump house could be attached to the present latrine building either on the Southerly end, or the Easterly side. It would look well in appearance, and should not interfere with the present function of the building. In this location it would most easily be reached by the power line and would be conveniently located on a road, which is another item which would reduce expense of installation of tank, pump, etc.
July 6, 1947

Mr. Charles P. Bradford,
Superintendent of State Parks,
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Bradford:

I have wanted to spend a day at Sebago Lake State Park when it was operating at capacity before I sent a report to you, and I chose to spend about half a day on the 4th and another half day today. I have seen the park in other years when there seemed to be capacity crowds, but never under the conditions prevailing on the holiday when all the facilities: beaches, tables, fireplaces, toilets, parking and roads, to say nothing of the personnel, was over-run by the crowds of people. This was true in both the camping section and in the Songo Beach area, and I will say this: the conditions present were an excellent reflection on the general public and your men, and a reflection of quite another kind on the attitude of this State officially toward its parks and those whose job it is to administer and operate them in the interest of the public.

I cannot understand why, with all the people who were there, the place was not burned down. With such close crowding it is difficult to understand why there were not numberless loudmouthed altercations among the people for places at tables or fireplaces, OR EVEN A PLACE TO LIE ON THE SAND. I saw nor heard no trouble, and I lay a lot of the lack of trouble to your much overtaxed, but always courteous and helpful superintendent, Mr. Rodney Welch and his men. With the best will in the world, he could not, with his small force, hope adequately to look after such a crowd. Where he had three, ten would not have been enough on the Songo Beach area alone, in this dry weather and the 4th of July when all the small boys and most of their fathers wanted to smuggle in fireworks and try to set the place afire! In spite of checking as many of the fireworks as possible at the gatehouse some inevitably would have gotten by. In the Songo Area there was very little.

In the Camping area on the Naples side, I helped to put out one fire which had gotten started near the proposed site of the pump house. I was checking the ledge formation to see if the building could be moved back about eight feet farther from the water when two campers going by in a boat saw a blaze beside the path at the base of a tree and came excitedly ashore to put it out. The wind was blowing from me, so I had not smelled it, although I was only about thirty feet away. One man used his cap and I threw water with my hands and the fire was soon out, but if it had gone another ten minutes nothing would have stopped it short of Naples.

If there had been a serious fire, it could have been blamed directly to insufficient supervisory force, because one man could not have kept an eye on nearly seven hundred campers. If a few violaters of the rule against fireworks could have been caught in the act and ousted from the park summarily, there would have been no further danger from that source; but the area is understaffed, and proper supervision for that sized crowd just isn't a possibility.
After observing the conditions in the camping area, when it was really too crowded, guy ropes of one tent overlapping another’s in a score of places. I feel very strongly that it would be good park policy and a kindness to the public, when comfortable capacity is reached, to limit further admittance to the camping area. Too great crowding can take away much of the joy and relaxation that use of the park should bring.

It seemed to me that it would be much for the good of all campers, if all camping were kept some distance from the beach, perhaps to the rear of the road. As conditions are now, a few fortunate ones have their tents within a few feet of the water, and are so close that others cannot help but feel that in using the beach in front of such tents they are intruding on the privacy of others, as indeed they are. Do you not think it would be more fair to all to keep the area between the road and the water free of tents and solely for enjoyment of the beach? There would be no need to cut down on the number of camping sights as there is a great deal of good high land beside the road which leads to the turn-around at the lower end of the high ground. On the plan of the area, I have written in pencil, "Additional Camping". There would be no grading to mention and the use of an axe and a bulldozer blade would quickly prepare many campsites for use at little expense.

If these areas a little farther to the rear, and no less convenient to the water than dozens now in use were made available, I do not see that it would be necessary to require campers to move after two weeks, unless, of course, there should actually be a waiting list of people who could not gain admittance to the area. The use of that area should be considered a great privilege and not a vested right by early-comers. I should like to have a tent there myself from May until October.

I have previously written to you at some length in regard to the water supply. Since you are considering installing a laundry, I think you might well combine the pump house with it, and place the building in a more central location than the present latrine, if you decided to drill for your water.

I am certain that more toilet facilities are urgently needed. Two more toilet buildings, particularly if other camp sites are developed, are needed before another season. There is so much pressure on the one building now, that many people find their own toilet facilities outside in the undergrowth, as a short walk in any direction unpleasantly will demonstrate. The public, however cannot be wholly blamed.....

There is an excellent site for a recreation building on the high ground at the western end of the camping area. At one spot there is at present a clear space in the midst of good large trees, and this spot could be sightly with a very little judicious clearing away of undergrowth.

In connection with large trees: On the location plan of the proposed pump house, there is indicated a large pine tree with a nail in a blazed spot. The tree is the largest in the immediate vicinity, and the blazed spot should be properly cut and shaped and painted so that the wound will heal properly and prevent the entrance of one of the decay fungi which can so quickly ruin a pine.

I hope that it will continue to be park policy to leave the westerly beach in its natural condition. If people want to go to it, well and good, but it seems to me that part of the shore should always be left to itself. The water may bring down a tree or two in the course of the years as it has been doing for many other years but I can see no harm in it.
It was truly unbelievable to see the size of the crowd in the Songo Beach area. Parking conditions were very bad. Cars were parked along both sides of the narrow roads where people were obliged to walk. I saw a number of children have narrow escapes and I nearly ran over a small towhead myself when he jumped from behind a car directly in front of mine. Some cars were driving at a hazardous speed. The large parking space near Sally Fisher's lot contained only six buses, a truck, and about a dozen cars at eleven o'clock in the morning when dozens of cars were parked in the bushes, on both sides of the roads, and others were circling about looking for a parking space. The reason the space for another hundred cars was not used was that there were not enough attendants to direct traffic and no metal signs pointing the way. The area is well located to serve the beach near the Fisher lot, but there just was no way for the public to know it was there.

On a study plan for additional facilities, I have shown how three additional parking areas could be developed. The area marked "one" would be the most readily and least expensively developed, I believe. On the other hand, it is the most poorly located. It parallels a portion of the beach near two other parallel parking areas and just adds to the condition where one could hardly put down a foot on the beach without careful attention to see which hand or foot not to step on.

The areas marked #2 and #3 are nearly ideally located to serve the farther portion of the beach, because they are located between the road and the beach. The existing parking areas are objectionable because people have to walk on them to reach the beach and traffic is two-way.

On the study plan I have shown a new portion of road to reach the parking areas directly. It seems to me that the road which turns off along the river at the old Dupont camp, should most certainly be strictly a one-way road. It is too hazardous to small children to permit travel in both directions. If this short piece of road were developed which I have shown, the present road could be maintained as a one-way road and direct access to all the parking areas be obtained.

Foot paths should also be developed and marked to carry people from the parking areas to the beach. It is surprising that there are not many accidents, now.

On the plan I have shown a site for a concession building. There is another site on the open area at the rear of the beach but I think it is not as desirable as it is not serviced by a road. I have indicated beside the site a service area which will park a car and a truck and permit their turning.

The water supply for toilets must be from drilled wells, it seems to me. The pump house could be centrally located to serve two toilet buildings with short runs of pipe, two or three hundred feet, and others with longer lines. Water would be obtainable in quantity anywhere in that formation.

The open area at the rear of the beach might be developed a little more as a playground, and if extra attendants, or additional attendants were available, much might be made of this area as a playground. I saw a number of youngsters playing soft-ball with bats in the parking areas. There should have been broken car windows.

On the plan I have indicated areas which could be used as tile fields for the toilets. They are high and drain to the rear and should have no tendency whatever to cause contamination of any deep wells. (20 to 25 feet)
I wish it might be possible for you to hold a meeting of the Park Commission with the Governor and his council at Sebago Park on a hot crowded summer Sunday and let them see just what these Park areas mean to the Public. On the 4th there were people from Portland, Saco, Lewiston, Augusta, Bath and I don’t know where, because I talked with people from the places mentioned above. French, Italians, Negroes, ordinary everyday Americans of the general public with no other place to go, swarmed to Sebago Park for a breathing space. They came by truck and bus-load, in ancient jalopies and slick new Buick beach wagons, and they all loved it.

This one area shows how starved for recreation space the public is. If high State officials could fully understand that State parks are necessities, not luxuries that there are no longer open spaces near populous areas where the public can harmlessly go, there would be means and leadership found to impress on the voters the fact that their own best interests would be served if Maine joined such states as Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire, Michigan, California, and even Canada in opening up those facilities which help so much to build better citizens of our youngsters and keep the older members of our population healthier and happier by giving them a place to relax and play in which they felt that they owned a part.

I didn’t really mean "give". I think we should all pay our own way for any value we receive, whether at the corner store or from the facilities of a state park. Adequate fees are necessary and proper, and if the facilities are made available the public will pay, and gladly and in numbers.

Most sincerely yours,

/s/ Myron U. Lamb