

Attachment J

Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan (selected)

Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan



Prepared by:



Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc.

with Ingraham & Associates, Barr Engineering, The 106 Group

Prepared for:

Dakota County Parks

July 2005

Consulting Team

Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc	Bruce Chamberlain, Project Manager Amy Bower, Project Landscape Architect Lil Leatham, Project Landscape Architect
Ingraham & Associates	Greg Ingraham, Project Landscape Architect Steve Wensman, Project Landscape Architect
Barr Engineering Company	Fred Rozumalski, Landscape Ecologist Jeff Lee, Water Resource Specialist
106 Group	Anne Ketz, Lead Archaeologist Andrea Vermeer, Principal Investigator

constructed railroad lines, which further contributed to the growth of the township of Randolph. In addition, the construction of these lines resulted in the creation of the village of Cascade in the southwestern part of Randolph Township and the northwestern part of Stanton Township, and of the village of Randolph in the southern part of the township, as settlements became concentrated at the crossroads.

- *THEME 3: POWERING MINNESOTA - HENRY BYLLESBY AND THE LAKE BYLLESBY DAM.* With the increase in the population of Randolph and the subsequent move into the electrical age came the need for power in the homes, businesses, and industries of the Lake Byllesby area. The response to this need was provided by Henry Byllesby, a forerunner in the use of hydroelectric power in America. Byllesby, whose company, Consumers Power Company, was based in Chicago, realized that in directing the power of the rivers of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, he could create the energy needed to sustain the ever-growing populations of these states. One of these rivers was the Cannon River, upon which he had the Ambursen Hydraulic Construction Company construct the Lake Byllesby Dam in 1910. Six years later, he changed the name of his company to Northern States Power Company, recognized today as one of the major providers of power in the midwestern United States.
- *THEME 4: THE POWER OF ATTRACTION - LAKE BYLLESBY REGIONAL PARK.* Though for many years, hydropower was the most economical method of producing power, by the 1960s, larger companies had largely replaced their hydropower plants with coal or nuclear power plants. In replacing many of their hydropower facilities, Northern States Power Company opted to donate much of its property upon which these facilities were situated to the towns or counties encompassing such property. One of these properties was the location of the Lake Byllesby Dam. After the land was donated to Dakota and Goodhue Counties in 1969, Dakota County created Lake Byllesby Regional Park from portions of the land on the north shore of the lake. Lake Byllesby Park attracted residents and visitors alike to picnic, camp, fish, swim, canoe, and simply enjoy the view. Today, both the park and the dam interact to provide a sense of all facets of the area's history, from natural history, to the history of everyday human interactions, to the engineering history at Lake Byllesby Regional Park.