

November 6, 1973

Mr. Charles W. Nelson
Supervisor Survey and Planning Section
Minnesota Historical Society
Fort Snelling - Building 25
St. Paul, Minnesota 55111

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The city of Rochester has submitted an application for State and Federal funds to purchase approximately 36.5 acres of parkland. The area is referred to locally as Indian Heights. Most of the area is wooded and is located on steep bluffs. An abandoned limestone quarry is within the project area. Native vegetation is encroaching within the quarry.

The proposed project area is the only undeveloped wooded area remaining in Northwest Rochester. It also provides a very scenic overlook of the City. It would be managed as a resource-oriented park with limited development of hiking trails, primitive picnic sites and a parking lot on the periphery.

We would appreciate any comments you might have so that we can comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665).

A topographic map and certificate of survey of the project area is enclosed.

Because of limited time, we would appreciate receiving your comments before November 10. Thanking you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Donald N. Orke
Director of Parks

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August 9, 1973

Mr. Jeff Hanson
State Planning Department
Capital Square Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Hanson:

This letter is in regard to our recent conversations relative to Indian Heights Park acquisition. We were greatly distressed to hear of the problems of last week regarding funding of this project. The acquisition of this parcel is essential and we would see little opportunity if it would have to be funded locally. The strategic location, uniqueness of the area, and the fact that this will be our last opportunity to acquire the 37 acres makes it mandatory that we act now.

I believe the questions of the status of condemnation proceeding is answered in the attached letter from our City Attorney. It was necessary to speed up condemnation procedures when plats were filed by the property owners and their subsequent requests for rapid City Council action. If we had waited any longer all possibilities for a public park in this area would have vanished.

Also enclosed is the environmental assessment statement and related information. If I can be of further help, please advise.

Sincerely,

Curtis L. Taylor
Superintendent

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enclosure

