

APPLE CREEK UNIT

OUTDOOR RECREATION REPORT

BURLEIGH COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Prepared for the
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Missouri-Souris Projects Office
Bismarck, North Dakota

by the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Denver, Colorado

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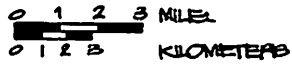
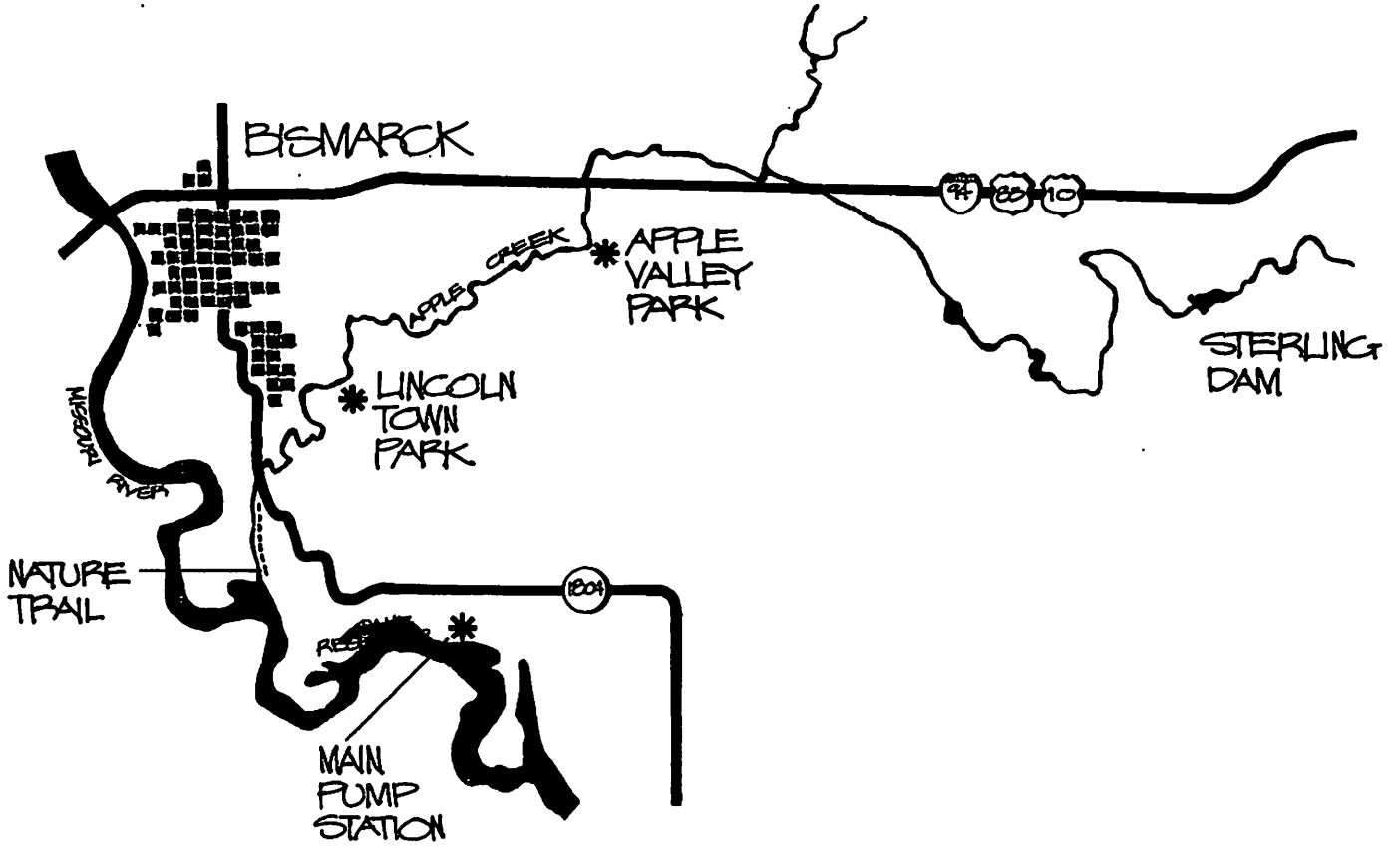
DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The Apple Creek unit is located in the Missouri Plateau, an area of glaciated old plateaus, and it includes a portion of the latest morainic belt in the eastern section known as the Missouri Coteau. The stagnant glacial ice that once covered much of the area left a hummocky landscape with gentle slopes, numerous pond-filled basins, swamps, hay meadows, and boulder fields. Many of the small lakes in the area are shallow (1-3 feet) and may be dry in late summer or early fall. The Missouri River and Oahe Reservoir, formed by backwater in the Missouri River from Oahe Dam, make up the western boundary of the unit. The largest city is Bismarck, in Burleigh County, on the western edge of the unit.

The climate of the project area is typical of the northern Great Plains--warm summer days with cool nights and long, cold winters. The average mean summer temperature (June-August) is 68°F.; average mean July temperature, 71°F.; and average annual mean temperature, 41.4°F. Annual precipitation in the study area is about 16 inches. The climate is suitable for a 14-week summertime recreation season. (See table 1 for monthly temperature and precipitation data.)

Access to the project area is provided by Interstate 94 for east-west traffic, and by U.S. Highway 83 for north-south traffic. There are also many county roads throughout the area. Trans-continental railroad and airline services are available in Bismarck.

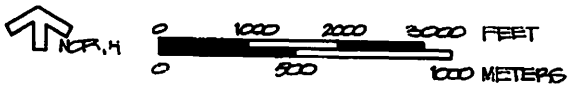
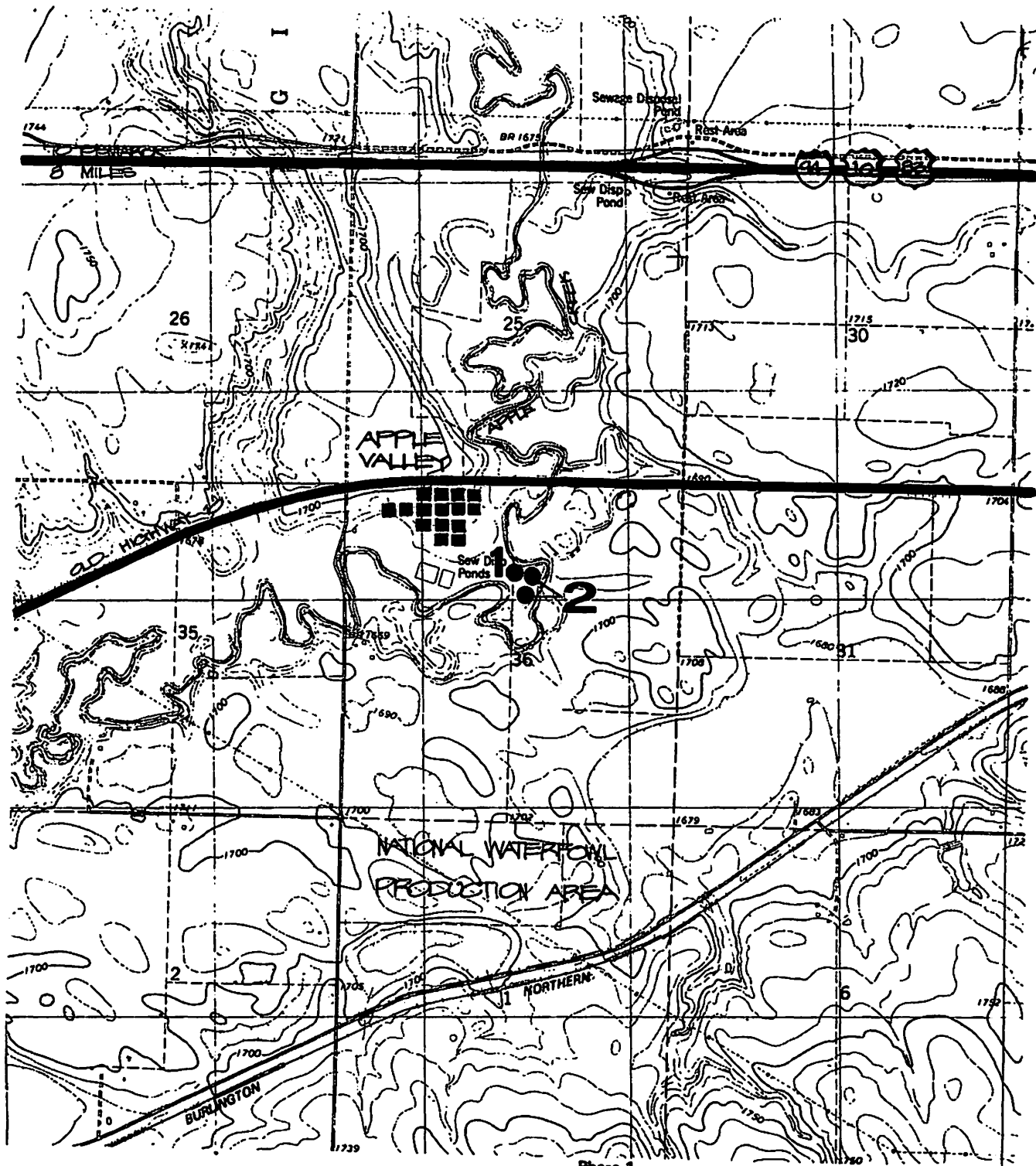
The steady population growth of Bismarck (1970 census--34,700 people) displays a characteristic trend in North Dakota: Urban centers are growing in population and becoming stable, and rural farm areas are declining in population (U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 1973). For the purposes of this study, the following population projections were used: 1980--54,000; 1990--60,000; and 2000--70,000. These projections are between estimates arrived at by Murdock and Ostenson for the University of North Dakota (1976) and the North Dakota Regional Environmental Assessment Program (North Dakota, Legislative Council, 1976).



Vicinity Map

Apple Creek Outdoor Recreation Report
Burleigh County, North Dakota

ONTARIO MICROFILM



- 1 PARKING AREA
- 2 PICNIC TABLES

Phase 1
**Proposed
 Apple Valley
 Park**

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 Burleigh County, North Dakota

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