

Quick Park History

The park has become one of the finest in the area by offering numerous picnic grounds and over eight miles of multi-use trails in and around a beautiful, deep forested valley with a spring-fed trout stream flowing down the middle. It is estimated that over 150,000 people visit the park annually. However, the park did not get created overnight. Seven Mile Creek Park was created in 1967 with the purchase of the Sid Meyer property by Nicollet County. The creek for which the park is named after was called 7-Mile by early settlers because the crossing was roughly 7 miles from the county courthouse via a trail that is now Highway 99. By 1976 the park consisted of 383 acres. The boat landing, ball diamonds, and a shelter were added in 1981 and in 1986 another shelter was added to the west side. A duck pond was built in 1985 and soon after MN partridge were traded for NY state wild turkeys and released in the park. Two more bridges were added to connect trails. In the late 80's a grant was used to purchase much of the park land to the west. In 1999 the highway underpass and equestrian parking lot was constructed. Efforts began in 2000 to help protect and enhance the water quality of Seven Mile Creek by managing the 23,551 acre watershed that feeds it. In 2002, with the help of the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation, a house at the park entrance was purchased. The house will be moved and the garage used as a park maintenance building. These additions make the park what it is today and enhancements will be sure to continue in the future. The park is managed by the Nicollet Public Works Department and County's Park Board.



Brown Trout Stocked in Seven Mile

Seven Mile Creek is one of the few designated trout streams in south-central Minnesota. Sufficient groundwater discharges from springs located upstream of the upper parking area within the park provide the conditions necessary for trout survival. The groundwater flows maintain temperatures cool enough (below about 75° F) during the summer and provide ice free conditions in the winter. Seven Mile Creek is annually stocked with fingerling brown trout (less than a year old, about 4 inches long) in the spring. The stocked trout have grown up to 18 inches long, although most are around 6 to 12 inches. The trout can usually be seen in the deep pools when the water is clear. Quietly approach the stream and hide behind vegetation to observe and maybe catch these wary fish. For more information about the trout in Seven Mile Creek contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Waterville Area Fisheries at 507-362-4223.

Seven Mile loaded with Geologic History

The wooded slopes along Seven-Mile Creek thinly veil rocks and sediments that tell the tale of a long and interesting geologic history.

The oldest rock exposed in the park is the sandstone that can be seen at the park entrance and in the lower slopes behind the picnic shelter and playground. This Jordan sandstone layer is over 500,000,000 years old.



Jordan Sandstone Outcrop

Kasota Stone, mined across the river at Kasota, commonly overlies this layer. This rock is 'missing' at Seven-Mile Creek, likely eroded away by rivers that cut through this area prior to the great Ice Age.

From the top of the sandstone cliffs to the bluff's edge, the slopes are underlain by glacial deposits from the 'Great Ice Age', which began about 2,000,000 years ago and ended 10,000 years ago. At numerous times during this epoch, glaciers formed in Canada and flowed southward. Only a few glaciations have left testimony to their presence in southern Minnesota. The last glacier left the rich loamy till of the region that has produced productive soils in our area.

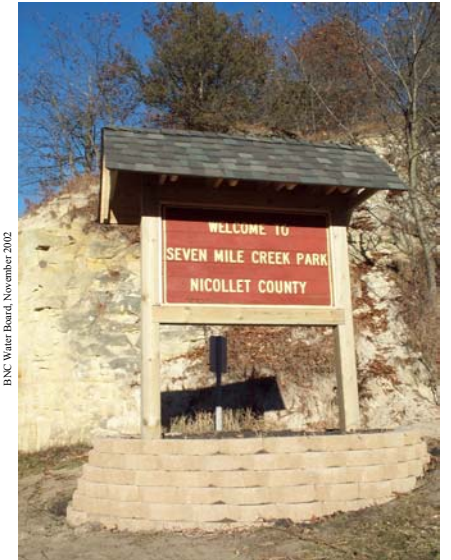
When the last glacier retreated, it caused glacial Lake Agassiz to form. The lake waters, unable to flow north, flowed south, gouging-out and cutting the great Minnesota River valley. The sudden trenching of this river valley caused its tributaries to form deep valleys and ravines. Seven-Mile Creek is one of these tributaries. In the last 10,000 years, Seven-Mile Creek has eroded downward through the till and the sandstone to its present grade. The trails in the park often traverse over small terraces that formed during down-cutting of Seven-Mile Creek.

Today, Seven-Mile Creek is continuing to shape the landscape, primarily by eroding and shaping land at its headwaters. In time, Seven-Mile Creek will grow longer, dissecting and diminishing the flat-farmed plains that start at the bluff tops. What will it look like in 1,000 years? 10,000 years?

~Courtesy of Mark Johnson, Professor of Geology, GAC

Seven-Mile Creek Park

Nicollet County



BMC Water Board, November 2002

Quick Facts

- **628 acre county park**
- **8 miles of multi-use trails with equestrian parking and highway underpass**
- **Boat landing to MN River**
- **3 shelters and numerous picnic areas**
- **Playground equipment**
- **2 volleyball courts & ball diamond**

Seven Mile Creek Park

Multi-Use Trail System

Rules of the Park :

- Park Closed Dusk to Dawn
- Keep Pets on Leashes
- No Glass Containers
- Fires in Designated Places
- No Overnight Camping

To St. Peter



US 169

Minnesota River

To Mankato

Trails- West Side

- 1 Trail 1 = 0.7 mi.
- 2 Trail 2 = 0.4 mi.
- 3 Trail 3 = 0.8 mi.
- 8 Trail 8 = 2.3 mi.
- 9 Trail 9 = 1.0 mi.

- ▲ Kiosk
- Bridges
- Shelters
- ⊠ Boat Landing
- ≡ Underpass
- ⋈ Trails
- ~ Seven Mile Creek
- ▭ Park Boundary

Trails- East Side

- 4 Trail 4 = 0.9 mi.
- 5 Trail 5 = 0.6 mi.
- 6 Trail 6 = 0.1 mi.
- 7 Trail 7 = 0.5 mi.

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

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