



*An Update on...*

## Orono's Big Island Park

### Recreation in Harmony with Nature

Located on 56 acres at the east end of Lake Minnetonka's Big Island, Big Island Park is the newest addition to the City of Orono park system. The property is well known as the home of the former Big Island Veterans Camp, and has a long history of recreational use dating to the early 1900's. Through mutual collaboration between the City of Orono, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and other partners, Big Island Park is intended to preserve the unique natural, physical and cultural resources of the site while offering the Lake Minnetonka community and its visitors a variety of passive recreational and educational opportunities.



Big Island Park is designed for recreational activities that require little or no infrastructure. This is in keeping with the conservation agreement Orono established with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. The Park is rustic in nature and function. Picnicking, hiking, non-supervised swimming, fishing and cross-country skiing are some of the allowed activities in the Park. The Park uses the doctrine of "carry in, carry out" which states whatever a person brings to the park must be taken out when he leaves. Please visit the area prepared for the elements and respect the many natural features of this Park.

Orono's Big Island Park Advisory Committee has been working toward completion of a comprehensive management plan for the Park. For 2008, the focus of the City's efforts will include shoreline protection, installation of new docks, and safety and security improvements to the shelter facilities. General cleanup activities have been underway, and demolition of hazardous buildings has been completed. While certain areas may be posted "off limits" as improvements to the Park progress, the remainder of the property will be open to the public as a nature preserve. We are again excited about the joint effort with Orono Community Education in this 3<sup>rd</sup> season of the Big Island Summer Institute.

- Park hours: 6:00 a.m. to sunset.
- Fires and alcohol are prohibited in the park.
- For more information about Big Island Park:

Orono Administrative Offices, 2750 Kelley Parkway, Orono, MN 55356

Phone: 952-249-4600 Fax: 952-249-4616

City Website: [www.ci.orono.mn.us](http://www.ci.orono.mn.us)

**Big Island Amusement Park in its Heyday - ca. 1910**

