

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John Traynor, Parks Manager
INITIATED BY



1/7/2022
DATE DRAFTED

Authorizing Purchase of Camp Indian Trails Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding and Amending the 2022 Budget

WHEREAS, The Rock County Department of Public Works Parks Division wishes to purchase a 178 acre property located at 5801 N. River Road formally known as Camp Indian Trails owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America, and;

WHEREAS, The Parks Division believes this land provides an exciting opportunity for the County to develop this land for recreational use by the general public, and;

WHEREAS, The Public Works Parks Division will need to make necessary site improvements to the land if it is purchased by the County, and;

WHEREAS, the addition of the Camp Indian Trails property will add 178 acres of riverfront property to the Rock County Department of Public Works Parks Division which has been recommended in the approved 2020 -2025 POROS Plan

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 13th day of January, 2022 does hereby approve and authorize the purchase of the property called Camp Indian Trails located at 5801 North River Road, in the Town of Janesville in the amount of \$3,400,000.00, plus closing costs not to exceed \$500, from the Glaciers Edge Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Parks Department 2022 budget be amended as follows:

Account	Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
Source of Funds 19-1980-0000-42100 ARPA Funding	\$10,739,760	\$3,400,500	\$14,140,260
Use of Funds 19-1980-6226-67501 Land Purchase	-0-	\$3,400,500	\$3,400,500

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution authorizes the purchase of the land and buildings at Camp Indian Trials. This resolution also amends the 2022 budget to provide appropriation authority for the purchase and allocating ARPA funds as the source of funding.

/s/Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.51 and 59.52(6), Wis. Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2022 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to sec. 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

/s/Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:
Recommended.

/s/Josh Smith

Josh Smith
County Administrator

Committee Action

County Board Staff Committee

County Board Staff Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Davis was absent.

Public Works Committee

Public Works Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Mawhinney was absent.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote.

Executive Summary

Authorizing Purchase of Camp Indian Trails Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding and Amending the 2022 Budget

The purpose of this Resolution is to authorize the purchase of the former Camp Indian Trail property located at 5801 N. River Road in the Town of Janesville as parkland for the Department of Public Works Parks Division. It also authorizes the County Board Chairman and County Clerk to execute required documents to effect the sale.

Camp Indian Trails is a 178-acre site (three parcels) located northwest of Janesville on the eastern banks of the Rock River along North River Road. Due to its strategic location between prominent early river crossings in Indian Ford and Janesville, the site was home to Chief Blackhawk and his warriors' camp during the Blackhawk Wars in the 1830s. Several historic treaties were negotiated and signed in the campsites that make up Camp Indian Trails today. In 1946, the properties were acquired by the Boy Scouts of America and a camp was established to provide outdoor recreation, camping, and education for the Glacier's Edge Council and Indian Trails District of the Boy Scouts in Southern Wisconsin. Since that time, the camp has evolved and developed to now include trails, camp sites, lodges and cabins, a man-made lake, and many other amenities.

If approved, the purchase of Camp Indian Trail creates a once in a lifetime opportunity for the Parks Division. Camp Indian Trails is a rare opportunity where an existing property has already been developed into usable outdoor recreation space, making the possible transition from Boy Scout Camp to County Park much more efficient than other more challenging undeveloped sites. The potential opportunities for the site are seemingly endless and its numerous existing amenities offer many unique revenue generating opportunities for the Parks Division.

This resolution also amends the budget and authorizes a transfer of funds from the American Rescue Funds to The Public Works Parks Division budget. There currently is no funds budgeted for the purchase of this property in the 2022 Parks Division Capital Improvement Budget and there are no current funds available for improvements that are needed before this property can open if approved. These funds will be addressed at a later time pending the approval of this resolution.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Traynor

John Traynor
Parks Manager

