

# RESOLUTION ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Public Works Committee  
Initiated by

Lori Williams, Parks Director  
Drafted by



Public Works Committee  
Submitted by

October 21, 2010  
Date Drafted

## ACCEPTANCE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR DESIGNATING SECTIONS OF CARVER-ROEHL PARK AND MAGNOLIA BLUFF PARK AS STATE NATURAL AREAS

1. **WHEREAS**, the Department of Natural Resources has a statutory program to establish a
2. system of State Natural Areas (§23.27 and 23.28 Stats.) devoted to the protection of biological
3. communities, rare species, and other significant natural features native to the state for the
4. purpose of scientific research, environmental education and, most importantly, for the
5. preservation of Wisconsin's biological diversity for this and future generations; and,
- 6.
7. **WHEREAS**, the County is authorized to work in partnership with state agencies in the
8. acquisition, protection, and stewardship of natural resources; and the County has expressed its
9. willingness to participate in the DNR's State Natural Areas Program; and,
- 10.
11. **WHEREAS**, the County owns and manages land within Carver-Roehl County Park and
12. Magnolia Bluff County Park, recognized by the Department as being of statewide significance,
13. meeting the criteria for State Natural Area designation, and containing outstanding
14. communities of a variety of land types described in the Memorandums of Understanding
15. (MOUs); and,
- 16.
17. **WHEREAS**, the designation of sections of Carver-Roehl and Magnolia Bluff Parks as a
18. Wisconsin State Natural Area will further the mutual goal of the DNR and the County to
19. protect the unique natural features of Wisconsin and Rock County for the people of the state.
- 20.
21. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
22. assembled this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2010 does hereby approve the acceptance of these
23. management plans and MOUs; and,
- 24.
25. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Parks Director be authorized and directed to sign the
26. MOUs and that these documents be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Respectfully submitted,

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Kurtis L. Yankee  
Kurtis Yankee, Chair

Betty Jo Bussie  
Betty Jo Bussie, Vice Chair

ABSENT  
Eva Arnold

David Diestler  
David Diestler

Brent Fox  
Brent Fox

10-11D-188

ACCEPTANCE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGEMENT PLANS  
FOR DESIGNATING SECTIONS OF CARVER-ROEHL PARK AND  
MAGNOLIA BLUFF PARK AS STATE NATURAL AREAS

12.D.4.(2)

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FISCAL NOTE:

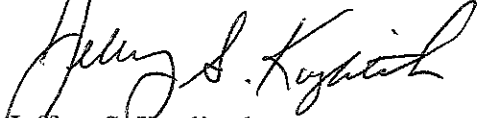
This resolution has no fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and of itself.



Jeffrey A. Smith  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to § 23.28, Wis. Stats.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Craig Knutson  
County Administrator

*- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -*

ACCEPTANCE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR  
DESIGNATING SECTIONS OF CARVER-ROEHL AND MAGNOLIA BLUFF PARKS  
AS STATE NATURAL AREAS

The first steps of designating these two Rock County Parks as State Natural Areas (SNA) are complete. First, the sites were identified by the DNR through field inventories and were selected based on their quality and diversity, extent of past disturbance, context within the greater landscape, and rarity of features on local and global scales. Once a site is selected as a potential SNA, an in-depth study of the habitat is completed. The DNR used the 2002 *Rock County Natural Area Survey* prepared by Robert Baller as this in-depth study.

Randy Hoffman, DNR State Natural Area Program Ecologist, visited Carver-Roehl and Magnolia Bluff County Parks in March of 2010. The program was discussed with Rob Baller and me in early 2010. Rock County Parks expressed initial interest in pursuing the SNA designation at both locations. Randy Hoffman returned to Rock County in August to discuss management objectives and specific park sections to be designated. Joleen Stinson visited the locations with Hoffman to discuss why sections of these parks were included or excluded from potential SNAs. Also discussed were land management tasks for Rock County Parks to consider that may be important for the WDNR SNA designation.

The management plans and Memorandums Of Understanding (MOUs) have been drafted by the DNR and reviewed by Parks staff, respective Friends Groups, and Rock County contract review. They are now brought to the Public Works Committee for support. Hoffman is attending the Public Works Committee meeting today, November 16, 2010, to discuss the program. The Friends of Carver-Roehl Park and the Magnolia Bluff Steering Committee have been invited to attend. If all questions and concerns are adequately addressed, we can move forward with the designations.

Once approved, the WDNR will provide assistance to implementing the management plan. For example, their staff will help create a Magnolia Bluff burn plan and will lead the burn, along with Parks staff, Friends members and volunteers. The WDNR staff will also lead invasive species removal activities on a volunteer workday. The idea behind cooperative workdays is to teach volunteers how to properly identify and remove invasives so they can continue the work on their own.

This is an exciting opportunity for Rock County Parks to increase the publicity of two parks on a state level. The DNR will publish our parks in their SNA materials, which will make these parks a tourist destination. The DNR will provide management assistance without taking control of the land. Rock County Parks still maintains management decisions and will be able to lead other volunteer and work activities. Most importantly, we will be preserving rare ecosystems and providing opportunities for environmental education and research.

Respectfully submitted by,



Lori Williams, Director  
Rock County Parks