

Madison

February 6, 1968

TO: C. T. Smith - Campbellsport
P. P. Peterson
E. J. Faber
D. L. Weizenicker

FROM: D. J. Mackie

SUBJECT: Rock Island State Park Master Plan

Attached is the master plan for Rock Island State Park. Revisions have been made according to agreements reached at the guidelines meeting of November 7, 1967.

Any future revisions will be by individual sections, and will be distributed to keep each folder current.

D. J. Mackie
D. J. Mackie

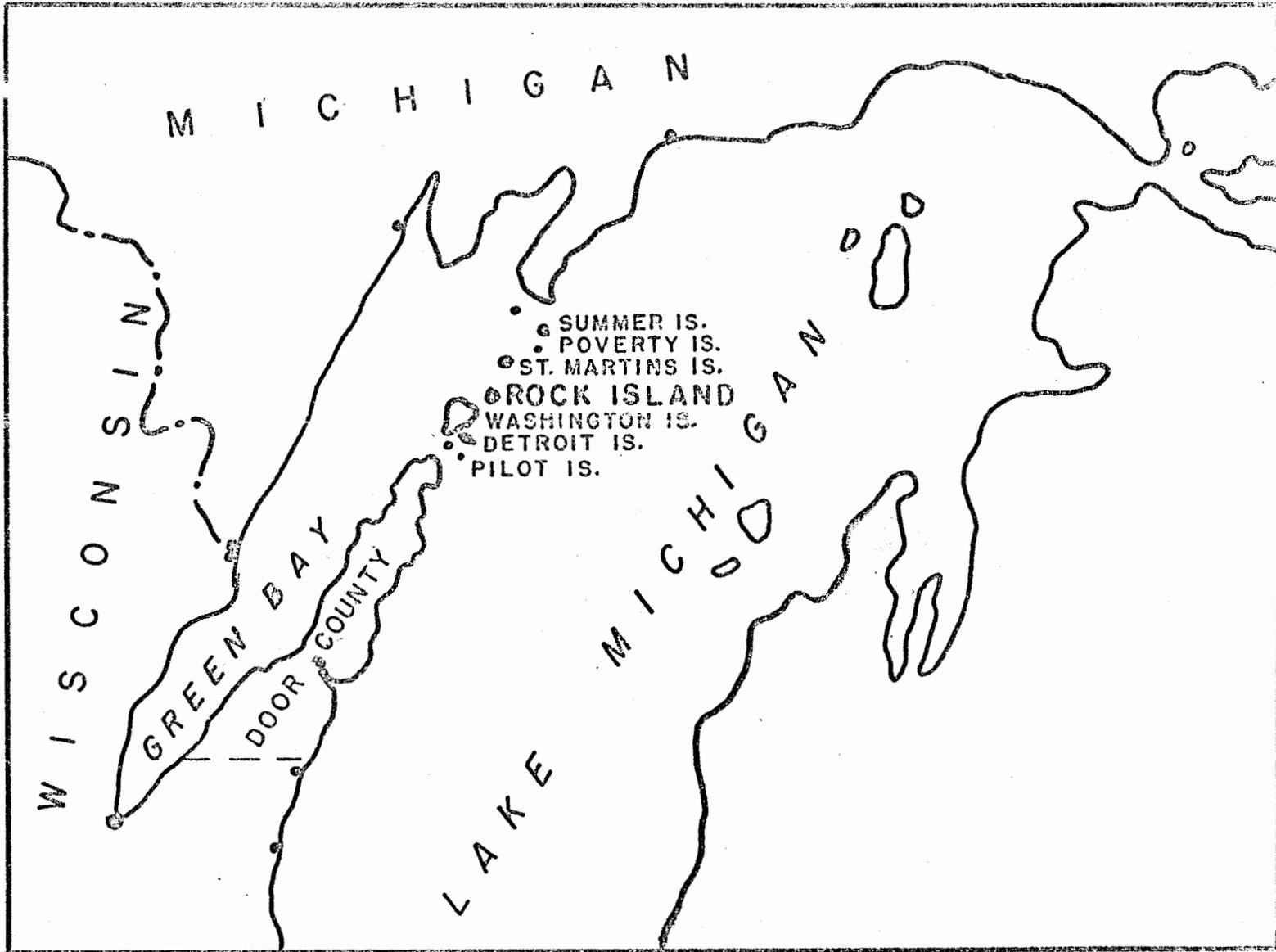
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cc: J. A. Beale
Bureau file

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MASTER PLAN

ROCK ISLAND STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN
FOR
ROCK ISLAND STAGE PARK

March, 1966

MASTER PLAN FOR ROCK ISLAND

SECTION I

HISTORICAL:

The early French explorers, to whom Rock Island was known as Pottawatomie Island or Louse Island, found the Pottawatomie Indians living there in peace, well protected from the Winnebagos by the treacherous waters surrounding the island. It was probably the first place visited by white men in Wisconsin and the first settlers there were Boone, McMillan, McNeil, Lovejoy and Arnold Lebrue. All were fishermen and trappers from the Island of St. Helen in the Straits of Mackinac. They came in 1835 or 1836. Louis Lebrue, after the death of his wife on the island, left for Chicago where his constant talking about the wonders of Rock Island influenced several families from Lemont (near Chicago) to move to Rock Island. This group, known as the Illinois colony, increased until nearly fifty families lived at the "old settlement" area on the east shore where they shared the island with an almost equal number of Pottawatomie Indian families. Fishing supported this early colony and the first government for the Town of Washington Island was formed there on June 20, 1850. By 1863, Rock Island had its first school, but already the exodus from the island had begun as settlers moved to other parts of Door County. The lack of good harbors and the inconveniences resulting from the isolation hastened the move. By 1875 the island was all but deserted until Iceland-born C. H. Thordarson, the Chicago electrical inventor, purchased the island in 1912-14. He acquired all of it except the north 129 acres owned by the federal government surrounding Pottawatomie Lighthouse. This lighthouse, built in 1836, was the first lighthouse in Wisconsin, the first lighthouse in Lake Michigan and is now the oldest house in Door County.

Thordarson developed the island into a fabulous estate with the huge boathouse, mess hall, lodge, bunkhouse and other buildings, all done in native materials and in the Icelandic tradition. His development work slowed during the great depression of the thirties and Thordarson died in 1945; Mrs. Thordarson in 1952. The island was left in an estate to two sons, Dewey and Trig. Trig died in 1954 and the remaining heirs were Dewey (and his wife Helga) and Trig's widow, Louise, and his daughter, Julie.

Rock Island was proposed as a state park in early 1961 by officials of the Town of Washington Island -- particularly Mr. Jack Hagen, then Town Chairman. A feasibility study was made of the island in September, 1961, by the Department. ~~This report is included in the appendix.~~

The Door County Board of Supervisors approved the acquisition by a resolution dated December 11, 1961, ~~pursuant to the requirements of Section 15.60 (5b).~~ A copy of the Door County Board's resolution is included in the appendix.

The following spring (1962) negotiations began with the administrator of the estate, Dewey Thordarson, and an option was obtained dated July 17, 1962. The option was to expire August 31, 1963. Inasmuch as Rock Island was not included as an approved project in the original Outdoor Recreation Act of 1961, the purchase could not be financed with ORAP funds until the original act was changed. As a means of holding the island pending the legislative change, the option was accompanied with a scenic easement for a three-year period with a cash payment of \$5,000 applicable against the purchase price. ~~A copy of this easement/option is included in the appendix.~~

The easement was approved by the Conservation Commission on August 17, 1962. [Copies of the "green sheet", accompanying memorandum from Roman H. Koenings to L. P. Voigt dated August 13, 1962, and the excerpted minutes of the Commission meeting are all included in the appendix.]

The option expired on August 31, 1963 and no change had been made by the Legislature permitting acquisition with ORAP funds. Hence, the option was extended for sixty days until October 31, 1963, followed by another sixty-day extension to December 31, 1963. Still another extension was obtained on January 9, 1964, extending the option to May 31, 1964. The option to purchase was then presented to the Conservation Commission on June 12, 1964, and was approved. Excerpts from the Commission meeting, together with excerpts from two intervening meetings at which Rock Island was discussed, are included in the appendix.

One of the terms of the scenic easement was that the Conservation Department was to maintain custodianship of the island. This custodial care started with the approval of the easement on August 17, 1962, and continued during the period of the option (and extensions) until actual ownership passed to the Department in April, 1965. Beginning in May, 1965, with ownership finally vested in the state, work began on clean-up and providing minimal facilities for public use.

SECTION IIDEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL POLICY:

Rock Island, as an area of exceptional natural environment, should be preserved so that the natural appeal is retained. To insure this, the Conservation Commission approved guidelines in July, 1965. These are in the memorandum from D. J. Mackie to L. P. Voigt dated July 7, 1965, the "green sheet" dated July 7, 1965, and excerpts from the July 16, 1965, Commission minutes -- all are included in the appendix.

SECTION IIILAND ACQUISITION:

Only two parcels are needed to complete the land acquisition:

(a) the 129 acres owned by the Federal Government at the north end of the island. This tract is presently under lease (license) from the U. S. Coast Guard to the Conservation Commission. A copy of this lease is included in the Appendix.

(b) an access ownership at Jackson Harbor. This is needed for a dock for mooring a service boat, for a launching ramp for visitors, for parking for visitors and for a small storage or service building. About ten acres and about 100' of frontage are minimum requirements.

SHORT RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLANS 1965/1966

<u>Development</u>	<u>Estimated costs</u>
a. Establish a picnic area at the central dock & building area--tables, grills, temporary toilets, cans & clean-up	Completed - summer 1965
b. Establish a camping area with grills, tables, cans & temporary toilets	Completed - summer 1965
c. Raze old residence--east settlement area	Completed - summer 1965
d. Raze old greenhouse--not including residence attached	Completed - summer 1965
e. Raze shed near garage	Completed - summer 1965
f. Raze mess hall	Completed - summer 1965
g. Raze old garage near boathouse	Completed - summer 1965
h. Raze Thompson Cabin P-798	Labor: \$150
i. Drill a well for potable water supply	Purchase order issued: drilling expected in spring 1966

j. Start distribution system for water to certain buildings and outlets	Labor: \$750 Materials: \$450
k. Install water pressure system	Labor: \$350 Materials: \$550
l. Start installing electrical distribution system	Labor: \$725 Materials: \$400
m. Finish repair and refurbishing of shop P-805	Labor: \$350
n. Refurbishing of garage P-804	Labor: \$350 Materials: \$100
o. Refurbish and furnish custodian's cabin P-799	Completed - summer 1965
p. Move and refurbish P-806 - Custodian's annex	Completed - summer 1965
q. Clean out boathouse, paint wood trim, repaint interior walls, refinish floors, etc.	About 70% completed in summer 1965--complete in spring of 1966
r. Maintenance on buildings P-801 and P-802	Labor: \$300 Materials: \$200
s. Continue maintenance on boathouse P-797	Labor: \$575 Materials: \$100
t. Repair concrete deck over arches in boathouse	Labor: \$675 Materials: \$250
u. Provide and erect signs	Labor: \$275 Materials: \$150
v. Build and erect orientation and information bulletin boards and panels at dockside	Labor: \$275 Materials: \$200
w. Provide a truck	Approved--delivery expected during April 1966
x. Provide a boat	Delivered in June 1965
y. Provide a supply of tools and maintenance equipment	Delivered summer of 1965
z. Provide a tractor with front end loader and rotary mower	Delivered summer of 1965
aa. Arrange for a custodian to be in residence on the island	Resident custodian moved to the park July 3, 1965
bb. Brush existing trails	Completed fall - 1965
cc. Provide carts for moving camper's gear from dockside to camp area	Labor: \$100 Materials: \$100

SHORT RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLANS 1966/1967

<u>Development</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>
a. Mark or sign existing trails	Labor: \$100 Materials: \$ 75
b. Finish painting trim and refinish floors in boathouse	Labor: \$175 Materials: \$100
c. Finish refurbishing P-805 garage	Labor: \$550 Materials: \$800
d. Replace patio on three sides of boathouse	Labor: \$3,200 Materials: \$4,500
e. Continue water distribution system	Labor: \$800 Materials: \$500
f. Get electric service provided by Washington Island Utility	No capital outlay required
g. Continue electric distribution	Labor: \$750 Materials: \$1,000
h. Refurbish P-804 shed	Labor: \$200 Materials: \$100
i. Refurbish lighthouse--paint trim, install shutters, clean up grounds, etc.	Labor: \$500 Materials: \$250
j. Provide and erect signs	Labor: \$150 Materials: \$300
k. Acquire fire protection equipment	Materials: \$600
l. Build hiking trail from lighthouse to east settlement area	Labor: \$300
m. Clean up foundations from all razed buildings	Labor: \$500 Materials-- equipment rental: \$800
n. Raze lodge P-807	Labor: \$1,100
o. Raze bunkhouse P-802	Labor: \$950
p. Acquire land at Jackson Harbor	\$15,000

THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF DALLAS, TEXAS, ss. I, the undersigned, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the following:

Basis year	Estimated State Tax Levy
a. Major road and air transportation (1964)	1967/68 \$15,000
b. Major or general health and fire protection	1967/68 \$ 2,000
c. General support of public education	1967/68 \$ 1,000
d. Public assistance, police and fire protection and other public safety	1967/68 \$ 1,000
e. Various other financial assistance to citizens	1967/68 \$ 1,000
f. General public health and fire protection with other facilities	1968/69 \$ 2,000
g. Public assistance, police and fire protection and other public safety	1968/69 \$ 2,000
h. Health, health care, day care, and other public services	1968/69 \$ 2,000
i. Public health, police and fire protection, and other public safety	1969/70 \$ 2,000
j. Public assistance, police and fire protection and other public safety	1969/70 \$ 5,000
k. Public assistance, police and fire protection, and other public safety	1969/70 \$ 1,000
l. Development of land, police and fire protection, and other public safety, and other public services	1969/70 \$ 2,000
m. Urban development and other public services, and other public safety	1970/71 \$ 2,000
n. Public assistance, police and fire protection, and other public safety	1970/71 \$ 2,000
o. Public assistance, police and fire protection, and other public safety	1970/71 \$ 2,000

LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLANS -- After 1969-71 biennium and beyond

- a. Consider acquisition of additional islands in the island chain lying between the Door Peninsula and Upper Michigan. In Wisconsin, this would include Detroit Island and Pilot Island. The other islands would be in Michigan.
- b. Consider establishment of a group camping area.

SECTION IVADMINISTRATION:

The island can be administered as part of the Door County state park group with headquarters at Peninsula. The office for the park will be on the island itself (in the boathouse) during the spring to fall season. During the winter, what little administrative work there is will be handled from Washington Island. A service area is necessary on Jackson Harbor and a small service building there can have a small winter office.

BUDGETING:

A suggested budget for operations and maintenance is listed below (note this is for operations and maintenance; funds for development will need to be in addition):

	1966/67	1967/68	1968/69	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74
1000 account	\$5,600	\$5,900	\$6,200	\$6,500	\$6,800	\$7,100	\$7,400	\$7,700
2000 account	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,300
3000 account	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,200
4000 account	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,800	1,800

PERSONNEL:

The personnel recommended for operations and maintenance for the next ten years are:

PERMANENT: ONE Park Ranger I

SEASONAL: ONE Conservation Aid for 8 months per year
ONE Limited Term employee for three months per year

The personnel suggested should start with the 1966/67 fiscal year and are

for operations and maintenance. For any development work, additional personnel should be provided.

The long term seasonal for eight months is essential so there can be two men available for operating the boat.

A seasonal naturalist should be added; he can start in about five years.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Good communications are basic to the protection of the island and to good administration. An agreement has already been consummated between the U.S. Coast Guard and the state by which the Coast Guard will provide a telephone "tap" from the Poverty Island-Washington Island cable. This connection, when installed, will give a telephone connection from Rock Island into Washington Island exchange from which local switching is available to all of Washington Island and, through long distance connections, into the general land line system.

When Peninsula Park becomes equipped with radio equipment, consideration can be given to providing a mobile set for Rock Island for direct communications to Peninsula and as a back-up to the Coast Guard telephone "tap".

A copy of the agreement with the Coast Guard is included in the Appendix.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

There is little in the way of help from public law enforcement agencies (such as Sheriff, warden, etc.), because of the isolation of the island. Most of the enforcement effort will have to be done by our custodian who should be well-trained in law enforcement work and be provided with credentials. Once communications are established, discussions can be held with the

Washington Island constable and County Sheriff so as to arrange for all possible outside help. However, many law enforcement problems are not anticipated because of the isolation, no automobiles and the expected type of visitors.

FIRE CONTROL:

Forest fires should not be too great a problem because of the timber type, little slash and light visitor use during high hazard months. However, the isolation and rough, rocky terrain increases the hazard. A protection recommendation has been made by the Forest Protection Division and is included in the Appendix (memorandum from L. V. Hilliker dated April 22, 1965).

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

Since the objective is to maintain the island in its natural state, no logging or timber sales should be permitted. Admittedly, some of the timber is mature and the failure to harvest it will result in timber loss and changes in the forest, with some species disappearing and others taking their places. These changes are natural changes and should be permitted to occur. The ecological succession should continue undisturbed so the changes can be observed.

GAME MANAGEMENT:

Since the objective is to preserve the island in its natural state, hunting will be prohibited except for deer hunting as provided in Section 29.57 (4). This section permits deer hunting only on Rock Island; a copy is included in the appendix.

ACCESS:

Currently the only access is for visitors to bring their own boats. This is difficult and expensive because of the intervening ferry trip to Washington Island and the land journey across Washington Island to Jackson Harbor. This also involves risks since it encourages visitors to try the trip to Rock Island with inadequate boats and without sufficient experience in waters which can be dangerous. There is good ferry service from the Door Mainland to Washington Island and there is taxi service from Detroit Harbor (where the ferry lands) across Washington Island to Jackson Harbor (opposite Rock Island). But some public transportation is essential between Jackson Harbor and Rock Island and also some service from the Door Mainland direct to Rock Island. Private operators will be encouraged to establish such services.

OVERNIGHT FACILITIES:

There will probably be occasions when, because of severe weather, visitors may be trapped on the island and not be able to get back to Jackson Harbor. Some consideration must be given to what to do with these stranded visitors. Perhaps a limited supply of tenting and sleeping equipment will have to be available (owned by the state) to such stranded visitors. Or, one of the several buildings could be arranged for emergency overnight use. Some study should be made to see if this problem really develops and if so, how best to solve it.

TRAILS:

The island is just the right size for a trail system because the visitor can comfortably hike the entire island. Several trails are already existing,

remnants of old roads, and these, with some brushing and clean-up, can be continued--these are all shown on the development plan. The trails should be in loops so the visitor can return to his starting point without back-tracking and certain new segments should be built--these are also shown on the development plan. A new trail is also needed to cross the center of the island and get to the high points and the low valleys.

It is important the trails do not become over-built or over-maintained. They are for hiking only and should not approximate roadways.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM:

The hiking trails are an integral part of the interpretive program that should be one of our primary efforts. There is plenty of room in the boathouse (combination building) to permit extensive interpretive displays, exhibits, panels, etc., all of which should be correlated with the trails and outdoor exhibits (including self-guided trails). In addition, a program of lectures, movies, talks and programs can be organized for the great hall in the boathouse. Seminars, workshops and classes can be held there including work in allied fields such as the performing arts, graphic arts, music, etc. The Conservation Department will not sponsor these allied interests but would encourage them and provide the basic facilities. The interpretive program should be stressed and the island should acquire a wide reputation for its interpretive program.

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ROCK ISLAND

Introduction

Rock Island has been proposed as a state park by the people and town officials of the Town of Washington, Door County. The island is in two ownerships now, the G. Thordarson Estate and the U. S. Government, which maintains a lighthouse on the northern tip of the island.

A feasibility inspection of the island by air and ground was made on September 21, 1961, by Lawrence Johnson, State Assemblyman from Door County; Robert Espeseth, Chief Park Planner; Alvin Nelson, Assistant Superintendent, Forests and Parks Division; Jack Hagen, Chairman, Washington Town Board; Harvey Grasse, Chairman, State Highway Commission; and other county and town officials.

Factual Data

1. Location of Area

Rock Island is located in Door County about one-half mile from Washington Island and ten miles from the tip of the Door County Peninsula. It is the outermost of the islands comprising the Town of Washington.

2. Accessibility

Very difficult access to the island is one of the major considerations with this site as it is ten miles from the peninsula mainland, with Washington Island an intervening island. Presently there is no direct connection of any sort between Washington and Rock Islands, and access to Washington Island from the mainland is only possible over a ferry run of about five miles. These obstacles would be a detriment to the area at the present time; however, there is a possibility of connecting the two islands with a causeway of about three-fourths mile long along an existing reef. The cost of this would be very substantial to the local or state government and would have to be justified in relationship to the demand and anticipated use.

3. Relationship to other State Parks and Forests

Existing properties -

Peninsula State Park (3,641 acres)	25 miles
Potawatomi State Park (1,046 acres)	48 miles
Point Beach State Forest (2,397 acres)	92 miles
High Cliff State Park (482 acres)	118 miles

Other proposed areas -

Europe Lake - Mink River (5,585 acres)	12 miles
Whitefish Bay (1,192 acres)	38 miles

miscellaneous buildings. This development is located in the southeast corner of the island. Water, sewage and electrical systems also exist but were not investigated to any degree as to conditions of repair or operation.

Historically, there is some significance to the island as the lighthouse and a fishing settlement on the east shore were established about 1840 before any others in this region of the state. A small cemetery contains the grave of John Boone, supposedly a close relative of Daniel Boone. Indians have also inhabited the island for several centuries and have left behind a cemetery and many artifacts.

6. Use Potential

A wide range of public use is possible if the island was acquired for recreation; however, the matter of access would hold the total use down to a very questionable point. The sand beach on the south shore would provide a good bathing beach with ample flat area on the south one-fourth of the island for camping and picnicking. Interesting topography would also provide excellent opportunities for hiking and riding trails with good observation points along the shore bluffs. Natural history and historic interests can be brought out in an interpretive program which could be housed in one of the existing buildings. Boating activities centered at the island, either as an enroute stop for large boats or a termination point from Washington Island or the mainland for smaller craft, would be of considerable significance.

Some of the buildings could be used in the operation of the area, but others would be of questionable value due to the type and amount of repair necessary.

Hunting on the island would have to be curtailed except for managed hunting to hold down the deer herd or other unusual animal concentrations. Wildlife is a definite attraction in such an area and should be allowed to live naturally.

7. Conclusions

Consideration of this island as a part of the state park system must be weighed carefully due to the existing access problems. It is not logical to consider acquisition and immediate development of Rock Island because there are other areas of higher priority without the access problems involved; however, the opportunity to acquire an area such as Rock Island, with almost six miles of Lake Michigan shore line, does not often present itself and must also be given careful consideration.

There is considerable anticipation on Washington Island of the economic return that such an area would provide for the locality. Since the primary concept of a state park system is that of preservation, the matter of economics should not enter directly into the final consideration, even though it has turned out to be a very desirable secondary benefit in many state park and forest areas.

Since additional recreation areas are needed now and more will be needed in the future, it would be wise to be able to acquire and hold a property such as Rock Island for a recreation reserve in the state park system so that it will be available when needed. If Rock Island is considered for acquisition, it should be agreed that it would not affect the proposed state areas at Whitefish Bay and Europe Lake also in Door County.

8. Recommendations

1. That Rock Island be considered by the Conservation Department as a potential recreation reserve and if acquired be held for future use due to its availability at this time if the acquisition cost is reasonable.
2. That the U. S. Government be contacted to determine if most of their land on the north side of the island is not actually surplus and, therefore, available for state acquisition or lease.

RESOLUTION NO.

TO THE DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Gentlemen:

WHEREAS, The State of Wisconsin proposes to purchase all of the land on Rock Island located north east of Washington Island, Door County, Wisconsin for State Park purposes;

AND WHEREAS, Door County, as of January 1, 1961 contains more than 4,500 acres of State Park lands, and the approval of the Door County Board of Supervisors is required by law to such proposed State Park;

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Door County Board of Supervisors hereby approves of the Acquisition of said lands for State Park purposes.

Roger W. Garrison
Frank Forest
John Barry

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true & exact copy of the original as adopted by the Door County Board of Supervisors on Dec. 11, 1961.

Charles Bassford
County Clerk

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
Madison 1, Wisconsin

ITEM RECOMMENDED FOR COMMISSION AGENDA

Date August 10, 1962

TO THE DIRECTOR: **L. P. Voigt**
FROM: **Roman H. Koenings**
SUBJECT: **Easement-Option - Rock Island - Door County**

- 1. To be presented at August Commission meeting.
(month)
- 2. To be presented by: **Roman H. Koenings**

- 3. Appearances requested by the public:
Name _____ Representing whom? _____

4. Reference materials to be used:

5. Summary: **The Forests and Parks Division has recommended that Rock Island located near Washington Island in Door County be purchased as a state park or state park recreation area. The Door County Board approved the acquisition of the island for state park purposes on December 11, 1961. We have obtained a three-year easement for the use of the island with an option to purchase the island on or before August 31, 1963. If the island is purchased, the easement payment of \$5,000 will be applied against the purchase price.**

6. Recommendation: **Exercise the easement and recommend that the island be named by the legislature for purchase before August 31, 1963. Purchase to be made from CRAP funds.**

APPROVED:

Signed:

/s/ J.A. Beale 8/10/62
Assistant Director Date

/s/ Roman Koenings
Supt. of Forests and Parks

/s/ L. P. Voigt 8/10
Director Date

Wisconsin

August 13, 1962

TO: L. P. Voigt
FROM: Roman H. Koenings
SUBJECT: Easement-Option - Rock Island, Door County

We have received an easement and option to purchase 775.8 acres of land on Rock Island in Door County. The duration of the easement is three years, and the easement payment of \$5,000 will be applied against the purchase price of \$175,000 if the option is approved before August 31, 1963. The easement has to be approved on or before August 31, 1962.

The following is information regarding the purchase:

C. E. Thorderson Estate, Town of Washington, Door County, Wis.
775.8 acres (T. 34N, R. 30E - Section 14, Govt. Lot 1; Sections 22; 23; 24; 25; and 26; and Govt. Lot 1 of Section 27). Assessed valuation \$85,000, taxes (1961) \$1,296.71. Included in the purchase are about four and one-half miles of frontage, of which three-fourths of a mile is excellent sand beach. About half of the value is in timber.

The only other owner of property on the island is the United States Coast Guard, holding 129.37 acres for a lighthouse site.

I recommend that the easement be approved and that the island be named for purchase under CMAP by the legislature.

/s/ R. H. K.

Roman H. Koenings

RECOMMENDED:

/s/ J. A. B. 8/13
John A. Beele Date

APPROVED:

/s/ L. V. 8/13
L. P. Voigt Date

EXCERPTS - COMMISSION MINUTES

Minutes of August 17, 1962

3.B-35 Rock Island easement-option - Door County - \$5,000

Commissioner Smith stated the Land Committee recommends that the Department be authorized to exercise the three-year easement at a cost of \$5,000 for the use of Rock Island near Washington Island in Door County with an option to purchase the island on or before August 31, 1963, in which case the easement payment of \$5,000 would be applied against the purchase price.

Commissioner Rahr commented that he felt there were other properties which would produce greater recreational opportunity for the public. He stated he felt Rock Island was principally a hardwood stand and it would be a long time before it would be accessible to a number of people. He stated he did not feel the Department could justify purchasing property when 80 per cent of the value was in timber.

Commissioner Smith moved that the Department be authorized to exercise the three-year easement with the C. H. Thordarson Estate for the use of Rock Island at a cost of \$5,000 with an option to purchase the island on or before August 31, 1963; further, that this Island be named by the Legislature for purchase before August 31, 1963.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olson.

The vote:

Affirmative: Commissioners Lynch, Olson, Schumacher,
Smaby and Smith

Negative: Commissioner Rahr.

Minutes of September 13, 1963

3.B-30 Proposed Purchase of Rock Island - Door County

Inquiry was made as to the status of the proposed purchase of Rock Island. It was explained that the Department has an option on the property, but since the area is not included in the presently effective ORAP list of approved projects, the option cannot be effected at this time. The option expires on December 31, 1963.

Minutes of October 25, 1963

3.B-2 Proposed purchase of Rock Island (Item 3.B-30, Minutes of Sept. 13, 1963)

Commissioner Smith informed the Commissioners that inasmuch as the purchase of Rock Island is not authorized under the present law, the State is not in a position to exercise the option, but it is possible the Legislature will authorize purchase at its coming session.

Commissioner Smith stated that Mr. C. Irven Cochran, Skokie, Illinois, appeared before the Land Committee, and informed them that he is interested in purchasing Rock Island for private use and developing it for recreational purposes. He stated he would preserve the

natural appearance of the island in every way possible. Mr. Don Shafer, Director of Community Development in Illinois, also appeared and expressed his interest in the development of Rock Island.

Commissioner Smith stated the Land Committee asked Mr. Cochran to submit development plans to Director Voigt, after which the plan will be studied by the Land Committee at a meeting to be arranged with Messrs. Cochran and Shafer.

Minutes of June 12, 1964

3.B-20 Pending land matters.

(D) Rock Island State Park Recreation Area. (Item 3.B-30, Minutes of September 13, 1963. Item 3.B-2, Minutes of October 25, 1963.)
775.8 acres from C. H. Thordarson Estate, Rock Island, Door County - \$175,000.

In discussing Rock Island, Commissioner Smith pointed out that the option expires on July 15, 1964, and the owners would not renew it. Therefore, if the present option is not exercised, the owners will sell to a private enterprise.

Commissioner Rahr stated he felt there are other places in the State which could be developed much more readily at less cost than Rock Island, which would be used considerably more by the public.

Commissioner Smith moved that the Department be authorized to execute options on the Mukwa area, Rock Island and Lake Wissota providing the prices involved do not exceed the appraised value of the land.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smaby.

When put to a vote, motion was carried unanimously in connection with the Mukwa area and Lake Wissota. The vote on Rock Island:

Affirmative - Commissioners Lynch, Olson, Schumacher, Smaby and Smith.

Negative - Commissioner Rahr.

Excerpt from June 12, 1964, Commission Minutes

Pending land matters.

. . .

(d) Rock Island State Park Recreation Area. (Item 3.B-30, Minutes of September 13, 1963. Item 3.B-2, Minutes of October 25, 1963.) 775.8 acres from C. H. Thordarson Estate, Rock Island, Door County - \$175,000.

Commissioner Smith discussed pending land projects - Rock Island, Mirror Lake, Lake Wissota and the Mukwa area, which is a part of the overall Wolf River project, and indicated that he felt in every case the Department should not be permitted to option any land at a price in excess of the appraised evaluation.

Commissioner Smith then moved that the Department be instructed that options taken on land on any Department projects should not exceed the appraised value of such land; further, in the event that options could not be obtained within the appraised value, the Department be directed that a second independent appraisal should be made before consideration would be made by the Commission of any further action on acquisitions on such projects.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smaby.

When put to a vote, motion was carried unanimously.

. . .

In discussing Rock Island, Commissioner Smith pointed out that the option expires on July 15, 1964, and the owners would not renew it. Therefore, if the present option is not exercised, the owners will sell to a private enterprise.

Commissioner Rahr stated he felt there are other places in the State which could be developed much more readily at less cost than Rock Island, which would be used considerably more by the public.

Commissioner Smith moved that the Department be authorized to execute options on the Mukwa area, Rock Island and Lake Wissota providing the prices involved do not exceed the appraised value of the land.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smaby.

When put to a vote, motion was carried unanimously in connection with the Mukwa area and Lake Wissota. The vote on Rock Island:

Affirmative - Commissioners Lyncy, Olson, Schumacher, Smaby and Smith.

Negative - Commissioner Rahr.

Excerpt from July 16, 1965, Commission Minutes

Rock Island State Park guidelines for development and operation.

Commissioner Rahr stated the Department wishes guidelines for development and operation of Rock Island State Park. Mr. Rahr said development will be limited to minimum facilities required for public health, safety, protection and enjoyment and the site will be restored to its natural condition. Access to the island will be by boat only.

Commissioner Rahr, with Commissioner Smaby's concurrence, then moved that the natural environment of Rock Island be preserved and that development be limited to minimum facilities.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smaby.

When put to a vote, motion was carried unanimously.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Assembly Bill 967

Effective SEP 29 1965

CHAPTER **283**, LAWS OF 1965

AN ACT to amend 29.57 (4) of the statutes, relating to wildlife refuges.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

29.57 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

29.57 (4) No owner of lands embraced within any such wildlife refuge, and no other person whatever, shall hunt or trap within the boundaries of any wildlife refuge, state park *except deer on Rock Island state park*, or state fish hatchery lands; nor have in his possession or under his control therein any gun or rifle, unless the same is unloaded and knocked down or enclosed within its carrying case; but nothing herein shall prohibit, prevent, or interfere with the state conservation commission, or its deputies, agents or employes, in the destruction of injurious animals.

Wisconsin Conservation Department

INTRA-DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Nevin

Station

Date. April 22, 1965

TO: Lowell G. Hansen
Peninsula State Park
Fish Creek, Wisconsin

FROM: Leigh V. Hilliker

SUBJECT: Fire Protection for Rock Island Park

I have studied the maps and your reports concerned with Rock Island and now have a very good picture of it. You did such a good job that I am interested in making a visit whenever I can find the time.

Except for its isolation, it does not seem that forest fires should be too great a problem to extinguish. I say this because the timber is mainly mature hardwoods which shade out low ground cover and retains surface fuel moisture while in leaf. There is little slash. Heaviest visitor use will be concentrated in June, July and August which are relatively safe fire months in average years. However, the rough terrain, rocky soil and lack of roads will add to fire control difficulties. The spring and fall months when the leaves are down and ground devoid of snow will present the greatest fuel hazards especially in drought years. I deduct that the risk is small at those times because of the lack of use. June and July would be quite safe from fire in a northern hardwood forest in the average year. The surrounding water must maintain a higher humidity than on the mainland.

The matters of prevention, discovery and reporting fires should be given first consideration due to the wildness of the land, lack of settlers and communications (see recommendations). If there is an adequate system for these purposes, the crew of five men should be able to handle 99 per cent of the fires.

Actual fire suppression should be with water when it can be transported without undue delay or labor (pack cans, pumper) or with fire rakes, brooms, swats and shovels. The cheapest type of broom rake works well in hardwood leaves. We also plan to experiment with a motorized flail trencher this spring.

Untrained employees should be given fire training and know their rights and duties as concerns impressing campers or visitors to assist with fire fighting, charging for suppression costs and arrests. Mr. Carl Herman is prepared to assist in training the employees if you desire.

TO: Lowell G. Hansen - April 22, 1965

Carl will stop at Peninsula Park to discuss the details with you at his first opportunity.

A list of recommendations is attached and if there are further questions or explanations needed, please contact me again.

Leigh V. Hilliker

LVH:dp
Attach.

NOTED:

Date

cc: Carl Herman
Clyde Smith

COPIED
12-13-65

Recommended Fire Plan for Rock Island Park

Fire Prevention

1. Advise every visitor to the island of fire regulations and safe fire use through a leaflet or handout.
2. Advise of conditions and locations where fire use is prohibited.
3. Responsibility, liability and penalties for letting fire escape.

Fire Detection and Reporting

1. Visitors should be alerted on how to report wild fires in designated places.
2. Some responsible permanent residents and government employees such as the Coast Guard should be solicited to report fires seen in their travels or from Washington Island at all times, but especially in early spring and late fall months when no one is on Rock Island.
3. Ask reporting cooperation of any aircraft or boat lines that operate regularly over or around the island.
4. Establish system of communications with work crew on Rock Island.

Fire Suppression

1. Equip work crew with pack cans, fire rakes, axes and shovels to be carried on truck. Reserve supply in case visitors are impressed as fire fighters.
2. It would be desirable to carry a small water tank and portable pumper on Dodge power wagon although you might get by without these and depend on outside help. A small tank trailer behind the tractor would supply pack cans efficiently.
3. Establish four to six sealed tool caches at strategic locations on trails with instructions posted for campers use in case of fire. Instruct visitors to take action on small fires. (This might be tried to determine feasibility.)
4. Make prior arrangements with Washington Island Fire Department, one other fire department, the Coast Guard and possibly the large potato farmer on Washington Island for men, equipment and transportation in case of large or severe fires.
(Carl Herman is acquainted with these facilities and ready and willing to assist with contacts after you and he have met and agreed as to general plans.)
5. Train the custodian and work crew in fire suppression tactics (if needed). (Carl Herman will be glad to do this at your request.)

Madison

July 7, 1965

TO: L. P. Voigt
FROM: D. J. Mackie
SUBJECT: Guidelines for the Development and Operation of Rock Island
State Park

Rock Island is an area of exceptional natural environment and, as such, should be preserved so that the natural appeal is retained. Users should be encouraged to enjoy the area primarily as it exists without extensive development. In order to prevent unsightly overbrowsing, deer hunting should be permitted. With this in mind, enabling legislation has been introduced and Chapter 45 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code has been modified.

Development will be limited to minimum facilities required for public health, safety, protection and enjoyment. Except for the boathouse, only those buildings which are in reasonable condition to utilize as a part of the state park program without extensive repair will be retained. All others will be removed and the site restored to its natural condition.

Access to the island will be by boat only, with motor vehicles, horses and aircraft banned, except for limited department service use. The primary development and contact area will be located in the same general area as the existing boathouse. This will be the focal point of the island where boats may dock and remain moored for short periods of time. It will be closely associated with development of any Department docking, launching or service facilities which may be developed on Washington Island.

Development will be restricted to:

- 1) Safe water supply
- 2) Adequate sanitary facilities
- 3) Safe docking for excursion and sightseeing boats and small piers near camp areas
- 4) A beach and picnic area
- 5) Small camping areas near the beach and near the "old settlement" on the east shore

- 6) A system of hiking trails to other points of interest on the island with designated trail-side camping sites
- 7) An interpretive program centered at the large boathouse
- 8) Limited service facilities
- 9) Public landing and small craft docking facilities on Washington Island

The development and use of the island should not deteriorate or erode the natural outdoor environment presently existing.

/s/ D. J. Mackie

D. J. Mackie

RECOMMENDED:

<u>/s/ JAB</u>	<u>7/8/65</u>
John A. Beale	Date

APPROVED:

<u>/s/ LPV</u>	<u>7/8/65</u>
L. P. Voigt	Date

Wisconsin Conservation Department
Madison, Wisconsin

EXCERPT - BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES - July 16, 1965

Rock Island State Park guidelines for development and operation.

In discussing this item, Mr. Mackie, Supt. of State Parks and Recreation, said Rock Island is an area of exceptional natural environment and, as such, should be preserved so that the natural appeal is retained. Users should be encouraged to enjoy the area primarily as it exists without extensive development.

Mr. Mackie further said that in order to prevent unsightly overbrowsing, deer hunting should be permitted. With this in mind, enabling legislation has been introduced and Chapter 45 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code has been modified.

Mr. Mackie continued, saying that development will be limited to minimum facilities required for public health, safety, protection and enjoyment. Except for the bathhouse, only those buildings which are in reasonable condition to utilize as a part of the State Park program without extensive repair will be retained. All others will be removed and the site restored to its natural condition.

Access to the island, Mr. Mackie said, will be by boat only, with motor vehicles, horses and aircraft banned, except for limited department service use. The primary development and contact area will be located in the same general area as the existing boathouse. This will be the focal point of the island where boats may dock and remain moored for short periods of time. It will be closely associated with development of any Department docking, launching or service facilities which may be developed on Washington Island.

Mr. Mackie explained that development work will be restricted to:

1. Safe water supply.
2. Adequate sanitary facilities.
3. Safe docking for excursion and sightseeing boats and small piers near camp areas.
4. A beach and picnic area.
5. Small camping areas near the beach and near the "old settlement" on the east shore.
6. A system of hiking trails to other points of interest on the island with designated trail-side camping sites.
7. An interpretive program centered at the large boathouse.
8. Limited service facilities.
9. Public landing and small craft docking facilities on Washington Island

In conclusion, Mr. Mackie stated the development and use of the island should not deteriorate or erode the natural outdoor environment presently existing.

The Business Affairs Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission approval of the attached development and operational guidelines set forth for Rock Island State Park.

lhs
3/18/66

MAR 1 0 1966

REVOCABLE LICENSE

In consideration of the public benefits and advantages to be derived therefrom, THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, STATE OF WISCONSIN, hereinafter called the Licensee, is hereby granted a revocable license for a period not to exceed five (5) years beginning 1 February 1966, but revocable at the will of the Government, represented by the Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, hereinafter called the licensor, to use and occupy, for public park purposes, the Pottawatomie Lighthouse and the 129.6 acres of land and right of ways thereto, being the area surrounding the Pottawatomie Lighthouse on Rock Island in Washington Township, County of Door, State of Wisconsin. The lantern house located on the light tower is used by the Coast Guard for Aids to Navigation purposes and is not included in this license. This License is granted subject to the following provisions and conditions:

- 1) That the use and occupation of said premises shall be subject to such rules and regulations as the Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, or his duly authorized representative, may from time to time prescribe.
- 2) That the Licensee shall provide a park custodian to guard and protect the Government property against damage and deterioration, except that the Coast Guard shall maintain and make all necessary repairs to the lantern house.
- 3) That the use and occupation of said premises will in no manner interfere with Coast Guard activities and improvements thereon or with any new construction or changes in existing facilities, nor shall the Licensee interfere with or block right of ways or access to the premises or the facilities thereon.
- 4) That the Licensee shall be responsible for any damage that may be caused to Government property incident to and arising from the use and occupation of said premises, and shall exercise due diligence at all times in the protection of any improvements and other property of the United States which may be located thereon against fire or damage from any and all other causes, and also be responsible for the premises used, including maintaining in good repair the buildings thereon.
- 5) That the privileges hereby granted as to the use and occupancy of the said premises shall not be sublet by the Licensee.
- 6) That the Licensee is not to be considered as acquiring hereunder any permanent interest of whatever nature in the said land and structures.
- 7) That the Licensee shall at all times save, protect, and defend the United States, its officers and agents, against any and all claims, demands, and liabilities whatsoever growing out of or arising from the use and occupation of the said premises by the Licensee, their officers or agents, or to the fulfillment by the Licensee of the provisions and conditions of this License.

8) That upon the expiration, revocation or relinquishment of this License, the Licensee shall remove its property from the premises within such reasonable time as the Licensor may designate, and upon its failure or neglect to do so, such property shall, at the election of the Licensor, either become the property of the United States without compensation therefore, or it may be removed at the expense of the Licensee and no claims shall arise by or on account of such removal.

9) No member of or delegate to Congress or resident commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this License, or to any benefit to arise therefrom. Nothing, however, herein contained shall be construed to extend to any incorporated company, if the permit be for the general benefit of such corporation or company.

10) That it is a condition of this License that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of the premises. The U. S. Coast Guard reserves the right to revoke and cancel this License in the event of breach of such nondiscrimination condition during the period of the License.

DATED this 8th day of February, 1966.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By P. E. Trimble

P. E. TRIMBLE
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief of Staff

This license is also executed by the Licensee in acknowledgment and acceptance of the terms herein set forth.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

By J. P. U...
Conservation Director

