



RECEIVED
JAN 19 1938
TO NATIONAL PARKS
ADVIS. OFF. - DIV. OF MAIL & FILES

THE MADISON AND WISCONSIN FOUNDATION
MADISON, WISCONSIN

INTERIOR DEPT.
RECEIVED
JAN 17 1938
OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

January 14 1938

Hon. Harold L. Ickes,
Secretary of the Interior
Washington D.C.

Mr. Ickes
1-21
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]

My Dear Mr. Secretary: Re: John Muir Centenary

As a Wisconsin man, keenly interested in the conservation of our resources, and fully aware of the truly great contribution John Muir has made to American life, I write with a practical suggestion regarding a permanent memorial to John Muir. Specifically, it is as follows:

The University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Wild Life Refuge and Forest Experimental Preserve now consists of 900 acres almost surrounding beautiful little Lake Wingra, and all within three miles of the University and the State Capitol building. It is altogether probable that John Muir himself knew this area more or less intimately while he attended the University.

As a definite part of the educational system of the University of Wisconsin this area is already being used by several hundred students in their regular class work. In addition, it is the out-door laboratory for the University faculty, and a number of research and demonstration projects of far reaching possibilities are now actually under way. A C C C Camp of the National Park Service has been stationed on the area for some two years past, and they have made it possible to further the development of the enterprise greatly; so much so, in fact, that National Park officials from Washington, U. S. Forest officials from Washington, and Biological Survey officials from Washington, after inspecting the area have stated that within five years it would take foremost rank among projects of its kind throughout America. Already, including the land and the development, it is approaching a million dollar undertaking.

Adjoining the present Arboretum area is a tract of 500 acres of land which is about one-half covered with a fine growth of southern Wisconsin hard woods. The topography is varied, as is also the soil. It is the earnest hope of the University to acquire this 500-acre area as a permanent University forest. Officials of the U. S. Forest Service have stated that if it could be acquired they would be favorable to the establishment of a U. S. Forest Experimental Station

Harold L. Ickes -2.

on part of the area which would work in cooperation with the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory here, with the University and with the Wisconsin State Conservation Commission, whose headquarters are also here.

This area is owned by about ten parties, several of whom are actually living on the land, most of which is not suitable for farming purposes because of its sandy soil and ridge characteristics. In fact, one family who have lived on part of the land for years, is in such meager circumstances that the son with seven children have been on relief.

Probably half of the 500-acre area could reasonably be classified as sub-marginal agricultural land, although most excellent for the forest preserve we have in mind.

Two years ago the Resettlement Administration, with headquarters at Madison, themselves proposed to acquire this area and develop it through employment of some 450 local unemployed over a period of fifteen months. A complete project for accomplishing that was set up, and received one hundred per-cent endorsement from the local and regional R. A. authorities, the University, State and Federal. It reached Washington just a few days following the President's statement that he felt no more R. A. funds should be expended for land acquisition until the Forty Million Dollar allotment for that purpose had been exhausted.

Later it was arranged that when the President came to Madison as planned he was to see the project in the earnest belief that it would have his personal enthusiastic endorsement as offering one of the outstanding opportunities throughout the country for demonstrating the value of Federal aid and cooperation during these difficult years. It so happened that because of the death of Secretary Dern, the President was forced to cancel his visit to Madison, and consequently did not see the project.

Two Madison men, Joseph E. Davies and Leo Crowley, with both of whom you are undoubtedly acquainted, had talked with the President. They are qualified to pass judgment upon the proposal now, and Mr. Crowley especially, as he is personally thoroughly familiar with it, and of course, Congressman Harry Sauthoff from Madison, Senator Robert M. La Follette, Mr. Aubrey Williams can do that.

The thought I now have in mind is to acquire this

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Hon. Harold L. Ickes -3. WISCONSIN FOUNDATION

property, and through a combination of Federal, State and University aid, make it the permanent Wisconsin memorial to John Muir. It seems to me nothing could be more fitting in that it would for all time have a tremendously valuable educational lesson and a great stimulating influence upon all who saw it.

After all is said and done, Madison, Wisconsin was the scene of John Muir's young manhood from which he received much of his education, and to which he has left a rich heritage. That his own memorial should be a vital part of the University educational system within five minutes from the very buildings in which Mr. Muir pursued his studies, at the Capital of the State in which he lived, and that it did carry on in a practical way the lessons in conservation and in forestry which were so dear to his heart, all contribute to make this proposal eminently fitting.

May I suggest that it be given your earnest thought, and I assure you that we here would be most happy to cooperate in bringing it about. The practical problem, of course, is how to secure the Federal funds with which to acquire the property, which it is estimated would be somewhere between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Development work can, of course, be carried on through the National Park C C C Camp on the area.

It has fallen to my lot to serve as a lay business man member of the University Arboretum Committee for several years past, by appointment from the President of the University, and accordingly I speak here for the University Arboretum Committee.

Sincerely yours,



For the University of Wisconsin
Arboretum Committee

cc to:

Hon. Joseph E. Davies
Congressman Harry Sauthoff
Mr. Leo Crowley
Sen. Robert M. La Follette
Mr. Aubrey Williams

JWJ:W:

P.S. Mr. Conrad Wirth has been over this area.



THE MADISON AND WISCONSIN FOUNDATION

MADISON, WISCONSIN

June 27 1938

INTERIOR DEPT
RECEIVED
JUN 29 1938
OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

RECEIVED
JUN 30 1938
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Honorable Harold Ickes
Secretary of the Interior
Washington D.C.

Handwritten notes:
6/27/38
Mr. J. [unclear] R. J. [unclear]
The [unclear]
Little

Dear Mr. Secretary:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
RECEIVED
JUL 1 - 1938
MAILS AND FILES

Re: University of Wisconsin
Arboretum, Wildlife Refuge
and Forest Experimental Preserve

You will recall your making what we all felt was a most excellent announcement to the effect that this is the centenary year of the birth of America's greatest naturalist, John Muir. In doing that, you pointed out that he was a resident of the State of Wisconsin and a student at the University here.

Following that announcement, I wrote you regarding a proposal to secure 500 acres of land adjoining the present 900-acre University Arboretum for the purpose of establishing thereon the John Muir memorial forest. We had keenly hoped it might be possible to acquire the title to the 500 acres through Federal funds, as had been recommended by the local office of the Resettlement Administration in 1934.

It was their plan to develop the area with forestry plantings by the employment of 450 relief men of this locality over a period of 15 months. This proposal for the John Muir forest is so eternally fitting, and we are all so eager to bring it about, that I am again writing you in the confident belief that it will have your personal thought and interest. Is there not now under the present Congressional appropriation set-up some way by which the \$75,000 or \$100,000 necessary could be made available?

We do have on the area an excellent CCC Camp of the National Park Service, and they are doing a truly splendid piece of development of the entire area. This is a University of Wisconsin enterprise, and National Park Service officials have said it is the foremost project of its kind in the country, and that no where are they working with such a group of scientists and others as they now have in association with the University in the development of the Arboretum.

TREBILCOCK, PRES.
ROTHCHILD, FIRST VICE-PRES.
GALLISTEL, SECOND VICE-PRES.

G. C. NEFF, THIRD VICE-PRES.
DUANE BOWMAN
DR. H. C. BRADLEY

A. C. BREUCH
W. A. FRAUTSCHI
LOUIS GARDNER

H. L. GARNER
R. L. HESSE
L. L. LUNENSCHLOSS

J. E. MEAGHER
R. M. RIESER
W. F. WHITNEY

J. W. JACKSON, EXEC. DIRECTOR
A. L. SMALL, ASS'T EXEC. DIRECTOR
MARGARET SMITH, SECRETARY

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN FOUNDATION

RECEIVED
JUN 28 1949
OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

Honorable Harold Ickes -2.

If there is no way by which the Federal Government can aid in the purchase of the land, our only recourse is to seek individual gifts. Possibly you would know of someone who has a keen interest in forestry, who greatly admired John Muir, or who is sufficiently anxious to further University scientific research and demonstration in forestry. May I even suggest that you yourself might be quite happy to personally foster such a project for the University of Wisconsin. I can well believe such an enterprise would give one a new interest in aiding and planning the development, and then seeing that plan translated into reality during one's own life.

One of our local friends made a gift of \$15,000 for the purpose of purchasing 180 acres of low land for the migratory bird refuge, and it has done so much for him that his wife and family came to me recently and expressed their gratitude for my having presented the opportunity to him. It certainly has brought a lot of happiness into his life, and he is still a comparatively young man.

We will keenly appreciate your thoughtful consideration, and are confident you will have constructive suggestions to make.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Jackson
For the University Arboretum Committee

JWJ:W:

J. W. JACKSON
A. L. SMALL
W. P. WILFEL



John Roj 9/1/38
~~*Mr. Wirth*~~
copy sent Mr. Cammerer in the field 11/13



THE MADISON AND WISCONSIN FOUNDATION
 MADISON, WISCONSIN

August 29 1938

Loaga

Arno B. Cammerer, Director
 National Park Service
 U. S. Department of Interior
 Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

Re: University of Wisconsin Arboretum,
 Wildlife Refuge and Forest Experimental Preserve

The minute you see this heading--provided your memory is as good as I believe it is--you will know full well that we are still pounding away in our effort to acquire the 500-acre tract adjoining the Arboretum for the purpose of establishing thereon a permanent University forest. Ever since National Park Service officials stood at the high point with me and pointed out the remarkable possibilities of that 500 acres, I have vowed I would never give up trying to acquire it.

My purpose in writing now is to ask if there is not under the present Federal set-up some possibility of acquiring the land for development by the National Park Service. It would take from \$75,000 to \$100,000. Ofcourse, it could best be developed with the National Park C C C enrollees now on the Arboretum, but if necessary, in order to provide work relief, it could be developed by a local work relief project. The whole point of my letter is to ask frankly if any funds are available to the National Park Service, and my thought would be to name the area the John Muir memorial forest, because I am reliably informed that Muir actually botanized and tramped through it while he was attending the University here. As you, ofcourse, know, Secretary Ickes made announcement early this year of John Muir's birth centennial, and expressed keen desire in seeing that fitting tribute was paid that great American and naturalist.

Mr. Conrad Wirth and others of the National Park Service have seen the area, and know of its relation to the Arboretum, the University, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the State Conservation Commission.

You will be interested in knowing that excellent progress has been made on the Arboretum area this year. It is rapidly coming to bloom following the work of construction and development of the various areas. You would be quite delighted with the council ring, planned by Jens Jensen as a memorial to his grandson, who died just as he was about to graduate from the University. We are hopeful that you will have occasion to come west and find an opportunity to spend at least a few hours in seeing what your fine organization has actually accomplished here.

Arno B. Cammerer -2.

I have suggested that as a permanent, everlasting tribute to what the National Park Service and the C C C enrollees have done, there be constructed at the main east entrance to the Arboretum a suitable sand stone bridge and entrance over little Wingra Creek. It is an ideal spot, and for all time would serve as a tribute and reminder of what is being done for our country during these difficult times.

Personal good wishes to you always.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Jackson as.

For the University Arboretum Committee

JWJ:W:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

*Kenny
Sager
Thompson
Wirth
Jennings*

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

September 7, 1938

Mr. J. S. Jackson,
The Madison and Wisconsin Foundation,
Madison, Wisconsin.

*0-37
Calif*

Dear Mr. Jackson:

We appreciate your letters of August 29 and 30, addressed to Director Cressler and Mr. Wirth, with further reference to the proposed purchase of lands adjacent to the University of Wisconsin as a memorial to John Muir.

The situation remains unchanged from our standpoint, since Director Cressler's letter of February 17, wherein it was indicated that no funds are available to this Service for purchase of the lands involved. We recognize this project as a meritorious one and will be glad to assist in any way possible toward the acquisition of the necessary lands, in addition to possible assistance through the Civilian Conservation Corps and the development of the area. Unfortunately, we can offer little encouragement at this time. If there develops any possible means of our assisting in the acquisition of these lands, the project will not be overlooked.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) A. E. Demaray
A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

cc-Mr. Little
WEL/tvt