



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2010-11-0276

September 9, 2010

INSPECTION OF McCORMICK'S CREEK STATE PARK

Inspector General David O. Thomas, after an inspection by Director of Administration Melissa Hauger, reports as follows:

On Thursday, September 2nd, 2010, an unannounced inspection by a member of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was made of McCormick's Creek State Park in Spencer, Owen County, Indiana. The property is managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This inspection was conducted to observe the effectiveness of the recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds that were used for various projects within Indiana State Parks. The inspection also observed the use of various state contracts/contractors in effect throughout various state properties.

The OIG is responsible for addressing fraud, waste, abuse, and wrongdoing in agencies. IC 4-2-7-2(b). The OIG is also charged to recommend policies and carry out other activities designed to deter, detect, and eradicate fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct in state government. IC 4-2-7-3(2).

Upon arrival at the entrance of the Park from State Road 46, the Gatehouse was found to be staffed with one person, who offered a friendly greeting. The Nature Center was clean and equipped with what appeared to be newly renovated exhibits. Although the staff at the Nature Center was not visually observed, several voices could be overheard from staff office area within the building.

While driving through the park, the grounds appeared to be mowed and well maintained. The Camp Store was closed on the day of inspection (only open on weekends), as was the outdoor swimming pool, which appeared to be clean and well maintained for use for the upcoming weekend.

Upon arrival at the Saddle Barn, at least six horses were outside within the holding area and appeared healthy. One staff person was observed cleaning the area around the horses.

The front desk of the Canyon Inn was staffed with one person. The first floor lobby area was clean and the exterior landscape was being watered by a staff person during inspection. The Inn outdoor swimming pool appeared to also be well maintained with guests present. The adjacent tennis court and accessible area of the Recreation Center was clean.

Regarding the inspection of the use of ARRA funds within the Park, the state website www.invest.in.gov states that ARRA funds were used by the Young Hoosier Conservation Corps to replace 42 fence posts at the Saddle Barn (other projects were listed, but information was too vague to find the various locations).

Upon inspection of the Saddle Barn, the replaced fence posts were confirmed (see Exhibit A).

Finding nothing further, inspection was completed at McCormick's Creek State Park.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2010.

APPROVED BY:



David O. Thomas, Inspector General

EXHIBIT A:
Evidence of replaced fence posts at McCormick's Creek State Park:

