

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8375

To establish the Prairie du Rocher French Colonial National Historical Park
in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2022

Mr. BOST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Prairie du Rocher French Colonial National
Historical Park in the State of Illinois, and for other
purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Prairie du Rocher and the French Colonial
6 Historic District are the finest historical and archi-
7 tectural examples of French Colonial Heritage in the
8 United States.

1 (2) Kaskaskia, Fort de Chartres and Prairie du
2 Rocher once served as the western boundary of the
3 United States.

4 (3) In 1763, Pierre Laclede Liguist quartered
5 in the Prairie du Rocher French Colonial District in
6 the Winter of and founded St. Louis in February of
7 1764.

8 (4) On July 4, 1778, General George Rogers
9 Clark, with the assistance of Father Pierre Gibault,
10 captured Prairie du Rocher and the Village of
11 Kaskaskia.

12 (5) On November 28, 1803, Meriwether Lewis
13 and William Clark visited the Village of Kaskaskia,
14 seeking Engages and troops to accompany them on
15 the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

16 (6) In 1818, Kaskaskia served as the first State
17 Capital of Illinois.

18 (7) In 1825, General Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-
19 Roch-Gilbert du Montier de Lafayette visited the
20 Village of Kaskaskia.

21 (8) In 1960, Fort de Chartres, the French seat
22 of government and primary military station on the
23 upper Mississippi River, erected in 1720, was de-
24 clared a National Historic Landmark.

1 (9) In 1966, Fort de Chartres and the Modoc
2 Rock Shelter were declared National Historic Land-
3 marks.

4 (10) In 1973, the Creole House in Prairie du
5 Rocher was added to the National Registry of His-
6 toric Places.

7 (11) In 1974, Prairie du Rocher and the
8 French Colonial Historic District, an area of 22
9 square miles, was created and added to the National
10 Registry of Historic Places, along with the ancient
11 Kolmer Indian site.

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

13 (1) recognize the importance of Prairie du
14 Rocher and the French Colonial Historic District as
15 a nationally significant architectural village of the
16 cultural heritage of the United States; and

17 (2) establish a Prairie du Rocher French Colo-
18 nial National Historical Park to serve as the focus
19 of interpretive and educational programs on the his-
20 tory of the French Colonial Historic District, and to
21 assist in the preservation of historic sites within the
22 Prairie du Rocher French Colonial Historic District.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRAIRIE DU ROCHER**
2 **FRENCH COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL**
3 **PARK.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to assist in the preserva-
5 tion and interpretation of, and education concerning, of
6 Prairie du Rocher and the French Colonial Historic Dis-
7 trict, and to provide technical assistance to a broad range
8 of public and private landowners and preservation organi-
9 zations, there is hereby established the Prairie du Rocher
10 French Colonial National Historical Park in the State of
11 Illinois.

12 (b) AREA INCLUDED.—The historical park shall con-
13 sist of lands and interests therein as follows:

14 (1) Lands and structures associated with—

15 (A) the Creole House (1800), a French
16 creole vernacular post in ground (poteaux-sur-
17 sol) construction—one of only five remaining in
18 the United States;

19 (B) the Pierre Menard Home (1803) Men-
20 ard was the first Lieutenant Governor of Illi-
21 nois; and

22 (C) the Doiron Bienvenue House, post in
23 ground (poteaux-sur-sol) construction (1860).

24 (2) A portion of the Fort Kaskaskia State His-
25 toric Site, a 200-acre park, which celebrates the van-
26 ished frontier Village of Kaskaskia, is home to the

1 earthen remains of Fort Kaskaskia, and preserves
2 Garrison Hill Cemetery, where Pierre Menard and
3 dozens of veterans are interred.

4 (3) Any Federal land acquired under section 5
5 and used as in interpretive visitor center complex for
6 the historical park.

7 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION; MANAGEMENT.**

8 (a) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall admin-
9 ister the historical park in accordance with this title and
10 with provisions of law generally applicable to units of the
11 National Park System, including—

12 (1) section 100502 of title 54, United States
13 Code; and

14 (2) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States
15 Code.

16 (b) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the
17 historical park in such a manner as will preserve resources
18 and cultural landscapes relating to the history of the his-
19 toric district and to enhance public understanding of the
20 important cultural heritage of the historic district.

21 **SEC. 4. INTERPRETIVE VISITOR CENTER COMPLEX.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—

23 (1) CONSTRUCTION; LEASE.—The Secretary is
24 authorized to construct on Federal land or lease
25 space to operate and to maintain an interpretive vis-

1 itor center complex to provide for the general infor-
2 mation and orientation needs of the historical park
3 and the historic district and serve the needs of the
4 historical park.

5 (2) CONSULTATION.—When the planning and
6 development of the interpretive visitor center com-
7 plex, the Secretary shall consult with—

8 (A) the State of Illinois;

9 (B) Randolph County;

10 (C) the Village of Prairie du Rocher; and

11 (D) the Illinois Department of Natural Re-
12 sources.

13 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary is
14 authorized to enter into cooperative agreements for the de-
15 velopment of the interpretive visitor center complex, edu-
16 cational programs, and other materials to facilitate public
17 use of the historical park and historic district with—

18 (1) the State of Illinois;

19 (2) Randolph County;

20 (3) the Village of Prairie du Rocher; and

21 (4) the Illinois Department of Natural Re-
22 sources.

23 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**

24 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Except as otherwise pro-
25 vided in this section, the Secretary is authorized to acquire

1 lands and interests therein within the boundaries of the
2 historical park by donation, purchase with donated or ap-
3 propriated funds, and exchange.

4 (b) STATE AND LOCAL PROPERTIES.—Lands and in-
5 terests therein that are owned by the State of Illinois, or
6 any political subdivision thereof, may be acquired only by
7 donation or exchange.

8 **SEC. 6. DONATIONS.**

9 The Secretary may accept and retain donations of
10 funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations,
11 or other public or private entities for the purposes of pro-
12 viding programs, services, facilities, or technical assistance
13 that further the purposes of this Act. Any funds donated
14 to the Secretary pursuant to this section may be expended
15 without further appropriation.

16 **SEC. 7. GRANT ASSISTANCE.**

17 The Secretary is authorized to make grants to park
18 partners for projects not requiring Federal involvement
19 other than providing financial assistance, subject to the
20 availability of appropriations in advance identifying the
21 specific grantee and the specific project. Projects funded
22 through grants under this section shall—

23 (1) be used only for construction and develop-
24 ment on non-Federal property within the boundaries
25 of the historic district;

- 1 (2) support the purposes of the historical park;
2 and
3 (3) enhance public use and enjoyment of the
4 historical park.

5 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) HISTORIC DISTRICT.—The term “historic
8 district” means the Prairie du Rocher French Colo-
9 nial Historic District listed on the National Registry
10 of Historic Places.

11 (2) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term “historical
12 park” means the Prairie du Rocher French Colonial
13 National Historical Park established by section 2(a).

14 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of the Interior.

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