



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2010-11-0277

November 4, 2010

INSPECTION OF CECIL M. HARDEN LAKE (RACCOON SRA) AND MANSFIELD MILL

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

On Wednesday, September 15, 2010, an inspection by a member of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was made of Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon State Recreation Area) and the Historic Mansfield Mill in Parke County, Indiana. These properties are managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This inspection was conducted for two reasons: to observe the operations of various state properties and contractors throughout the state, and to observe for compliance and the effectiveness of the recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds that were used for various projects within Indiana State Parks and recreation areas.

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).

I

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 “renovate foot bridges and 0.5 miles of foot path,” although the path and type of renovation was not specified.¹ To observe trail conditions and possibly find the noted renovations, Trail One revealed that it began at the main boat ramp and went around the south shore of the peninsula.

The beginning of the trail was wide and appeared to have been recently covered with black gravel that eased walking conditions. The black gravel started and stopped at various points throughout the trail, possibly covering about a third of the total trail. Although the gravel was helpful, and the trail was relatively well marked, there were still areas of the trail that were severely overgrown with brush and hard to pass, mainly near the shore level area of the trail.

Several foot bridges were encountered throughout the trail. The first two appeared to have been recently renovated or repaired due to the newness of the lumber (see Exhibit A). The third appeared to have been possibly renovated, but was also leaning, yet still passable (Exhibit B). The fourth bridge was displaced and on the ground (Exhibit C). Near one of the bridges, it was evident that the brush had been collected in a cleaning effort (Exhibit D).

¹ Other projects were listed, but the information was too vague to find the various locations, and due to this being an unannounced inspection, those were not pursued at this time.

II

The Historic Mansfield Roller Mill is located six miles south of U.S. 36 off of State Road 59 and managed by the DNR. Upon arrival at the Mill, a DNR employee was present talking with visitors. The Mill and adjoined landscaping appeared to be clean and well maintained.

Regarding the inspection of the use of ARRA funds within the Mill, the state website www.invest.in.gov states that ARRA funds were used to “repair Mansfield Mill’s windows”. A bulletin board on the exterior of the building near the entrance had a sign posted noting work on the basement windows (Exhibit E). Although the basement was not accessible to visitors from the interior of the Mill, a walk around the exterior of the Mill on the deck offered a view of the new basement windows and paint (Exhibit F). The scent of paint or varnish was also present in addition to it appearing to have been freshly painted.

Finding nothing further, inspection was completed at the Historic Mansfield Mill.

Dated this 4th day of November, 2010.

APPROVED BY:



David O. Thomas, Inspector General

EXHIBIT A:
Evidence of renovated foot bridges on Trail 1:



Exhibit B, possible renovated leaning foot bridge:



Exhibit C, foot bridge in disrepair:



Exhibit D, brush had been collected:



Exhibit E, sign outside of Mansfield Mill:



Exhibit F, new basement windows/paint from Mill exterior:

