

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4525

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 13, 2022

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and
referred to the Committee on Energy and 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Prairie du Rocher
5 French Colonial National Historical Park Establishment
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

9 (1) Prairie du Rocher and the French Colonial
10 Historic District are the finest historical and archi-

1 tectural examples of French colonial heritage in the
2 United States;

3 (2) in 1966, Fort de Chartres and the Modoc
4 Rock Shelter were each designated as a National
5 Historic Landmark;

6 (3) in 1973, the Creole House in Prairie du
7 Rocher was added to the National Register of His-
8 toric Places;

9 (4) in 1974, the French Colonial Historic Dis-
10 trict, which is an area of 22 square miles that in-
11 cludes the ancient Kolmer Indian site, was added to
12 the National Register of Historic Places;

13 (5) Fort de Chartres, which was constructed in
14 1720—

15 (A) served as the French seat of govern-
16 ment and primary military station on the upper
17 Mississippi River; and

18 (B) was designated as a National Historic
19 Landmark in 1960;

20 (6) Pierre Laclede Liguist—

21 (A) quartered in the Prairie du Rocher
22 French Colonial District in the winter of 1763;
23 and

24 (B) in February 1764, founded St. Louis,
25 Missouri;

1 (7) in 1818, the village of Kaskaskia served as
2 the first State capital of Illinois;

3 (8) on July 4, 1778, General George Rogers
4 Clark, with the assistance of Father Pierre Gibault,
5 captured Prairie du Rocher and the village of
6 Kaskaskia;

7 (9) on November 28, 1803, Meriwether Lewis
8 and William Clark visited the village of Kaskaskia
9 seeking boatmen and troops to accompany the Lewis
10 and Clark expedition;

11 (10) in 1825, General Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-
12 Roch-Gilbert du Montier de Lafayette visited the vil-
13 lage of Kaskaskia; and

14 (11) the village of Kaskaskia, Fort de Chartres,
15 and Prairie du Rocher once served as the western
16 boundary of the United States.

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

18 (1) to recognize the importance of Prairie du
19 Rocher and the French Colonial Historic District as
20 a nationally significant architectural village that em-
21 bodies the cultural heritage of the United States;
22 and

23 (2) to establish the Prairie du Rocher French
24 Colonial National Historical Park—

1 (A) to serve as the focus of interpretive
2 and educational programs relating to the his-
3 tory of the French Colonial Historic District;
4 and

5 (B) to assist in the preservation of historic
6 sites within the French Colonial Historic Dis-
7 trict.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term “Historical
11 Park” means the Prairie du Rocher French Colonial
12 National Historical Park established by section 4(a).

13 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior.

15 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
16 of Illinois.

17 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRAIRIE DU ROCHER**
18 **FRENCH COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL**
19 **PARK.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in the preservation, in-
21 terpretation, and education relating to Prairie du Rocher
22 and the French Colonial Historic District and to provide
23 technical assistance to a broad range of public and private
24 landowners and preservation organizations, there is estab-

1 lished in the State the Prairie du Rocher French Colonial
2 National Historical Park.

3 (b) AREA INCLUDED.—The Historical Park shall
4 consist of the following:

5 (1) Land and structures associated with the
6 Creole House, which was constructed in 1800, a
7 French Creole vernacular post-in-ground or
8 “poteaux-sur-sol” structure that is 1 of 5 remaining
9 such structures in the United States.

10 (2) Land and structures associated with the
11 Pierre Menard Home, which was constructed in
12 1803 and in which Pierre Menard lived during his
13 term as the first Lieutenant Governor of Illinois.

14 (3) Land and structures associated with the
15 Doiron Bienvenue House, which is a post-in-ground
16 or “poteaux-sur-sol” structure constructed in 1860.

17 (4) A portion of the Fort Kaskaskia State His-
18 toric Site, which—

19 (A) is a 200-acre park that celebrates the
20 vanished frontier village of Kaskaskia;

21 (B) is home to the earthen remains of Fort
22 Kaskaskia; and

23 (C) preserves Garrison Hill Cemetery at
24 which Pierre Menard and dozens of veterans
25 are interred.

1 (5) Not more than 1,000 acres of land that the
 2 Secretary may designate for an interpretive center
 3 for the Historical Park, in accordance with sub-
 4 sections (c) and (d) of section 5.

5 (c) MAP.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
 7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
 8 shall prepare a map depicting the boundaries of the
 9 Historical Park.

10 (2) AVAILABILITY.—The map prepared under
 11 paragraph (1) shall be available for public inspection
 12 in the appropriate offices of the National Park Serv-
 13 ice.

14 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PRAIRIE DU ROCHER**
 15 **FRENCH COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL**
 16 **PARK.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer
 18 the Historical Park—

19 (1) in accordance with—

20 (A) this Act; and

21 (B) the provisions of law generally applica-
 22 ble to units of the National Park System, in-
 23 cluding chapter 3201 of title 54, United States
 24 Code; and

25 (2) in a manner that—

1 (A) preserves resources and cultural land-
 2 scapes relating to the history of the French Co-
 3 lonial Historic District; and

4 (B) enhances public understanding of the
 5 important cultural heritage of the French Colo-
 6 nial Historic District.

7 (b) DONATIONS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept
 9 donations of funds, property, or services from indi-
 10 viduals, foundations, or other public or private enti-
 11 ties for the purposes of providing programs, services,
 12 facilities, and technical assistance that further the
 13 purposes of the Historical Park.

14 (2) EXPENDITURE.—Any funds donated to the
 15 Secretary under paragraph (1) may be expended by
 16 the Secretary without further appropriation.

17 (c) INTERPRETIVE CENTER.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may con-
 19 struct or lease space to operate and maintain on
 20 land identified to be appropriate by the Secretary an
 21 interpretive center for the Historical Park.

22 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
 23 sult with the State, Randolph County, Illinois, the
 24 village of Prairie du Rocher, Illinois, and the Illinois
 25 Department of Natural Resources in the planning

1 and development of the interpretive center author-
2 ized under paragraph (1).

3 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
4 may enter into cooperative agreements with the State,
5 Randolph County, Illinois, the village of Prairie du
6 Rocher, Illinois, the Illinois Department of Natural Re-
7 sources, and other public or private organizations for the
8 development of—

9 (1) the interpretive center authorized under
10 subsection (c)(1); and

11 (2) educational programs and other materials
12 that would facilitate public use of the Historical
13 Park.

14 (e) GRANTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
16 appropriations, the Secretary may make grants to
17 partners of the Historical Park for eligible projects
18 described in paragraph (2).

19 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—A project eligible for
20 a grant under paragraph (1) is a project that—

21 (A) does not require Federal involvement
22 other than the provision of financial assistance;

23 (B) supports the purposes of the Historical
24 Park;

1 (C) enhances public use and enjoyment of
2 the Historical Park; and

3 (D) may include financial assistance for
4 construction and development on non-Federal
5 land within the boundaries of the Historical
6 Park.

7 (f) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
9 graph (2), the Secretary may acquire land and inter-
10 ests in land within the boundaries of the Historical
11 Park by—

12 (A) donation;

13 (B) purchase with donated or appropriated
14 funds; or

15 (C) exchange.

16 (2) EXCEPTION.—Land and interests in land
17 that are owned by the State or any political subdivi-
18 sion of the State may be acquired for the Historical
19 Park under paragraph (1) only by donation or ex-
20 change.

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