

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2016-05

OF THE LAKE COUNTY PARK AND
RECREATION BOARD IN OPPOSITION
TO THE GREAT LAKES BASIN
TRANSPORTATION RAIL LINE

WHEREAS, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board (hereinafter the "BOARD") is a public agency organized and existing in the County of Lake, State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the BOARD, owns and operates, for the benefit of the public, numerous park and recreation facilities throughout the County of Lake, State of Indiana, including, but not limited to, the Buckley Homestead (hereinafter "Buckley") Park; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Transportation and Rail Line (hereinafter "Great Lakes") is creating plans to develop a rail line that will go thru "Buckley"; and

WHEREAS, the CEO of the BOARD has sent a letter to the Lake County Commissioner, Gerald J. Scheub objecting to the Great Lakes Rail Line which will pass thru Buckley and outlines therein the disastrous consequences that will result from the construction of the Great Lake Rail Line as presently designed (Letter attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A").

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the BOARD as follows:

1. The Board strongly opposes the Great Lakes rail line as presently designed for the reasons as presented in the letter attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A".
2. The BOARD authorizes and directs its CEO and Attorney to take such actions as necessary to prevent the implementation of the design and development of the said Great Lakes Rail Line as

presently designed.

Resolved by unanimous vote of the Board this 14th day of April, 2016.

Signed: _____

President

Attest: _____

CEO/Secretary



8411 E. Lincoln Hwy. • Crown Point, IN 46307

219.769.7275 • Fax: 219.945.0452

Bellaboo's
219-963-2070

Buckley Homestead
219-696-0769

Cedar Creek
219-365-2902

Deep River
219-947-1958

Deep River Waterpark
219-947-7850

Gibson Woods
219-844-3188

Grand Kankakee Marsh
219-552-0033

Lake Etta
219-944-9601
Banquets - 219-949-6533

Lemon Lake
219-663-7627

Oak Ridge Prairie
219-884-7238

Stoney Run
219-996-6500

Three Rivers
219-962-7810

Turkey Creek, G.C.
219-980-8101
Pro Shop - 219-980-5170
Banquets - 219-887-3550

Reservations - 219-769-7275

April 7, 2016

The Honorable Gerald J. Scheub
Lake County Commissioner, 2nd District
Board of the Lake County Commissioners
2293 North Main Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Dear Mr. Scheub:

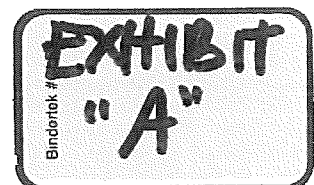
The Lake County Parks and Recreation Department strongly opposes the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation rail line Chicago bypass for many reasons.

Buckley Homestead is a unique county park that combines educational, historical, and scientific research components along with the preservation of hundreds of acres of open space in an increasingly developing county for the betterment of all Lake County residents. These combined qualities create a distinctive experience that increases the quality of life and brings in tourism dollars that would be negated by a major railroad development disrupting the park and the surrounding countryside.

This project will expressly negate the purpose of the Calumet Astronomy Center (CAC), a collaborative partnership between the Lake County Parks, the volunteers of the Calumet Astronomical Society (CAS) and Purdue University Northwest (PNW). Purdue's Northwest Indiana Robotic Observatory (NIRO) telescope, housed at the CAC on the grounds of Buckley Homestead County Park, is a fully instrumented, research-grade telescopic facility directly serving undergraduate science education and research. It also complements and enhances CAS's Conway Observatory, used for public education of the stars, planets, constellations and the night skies. Both facilities expand an astronomical and educational presence in Northwest Indiana.

The tracks are planned to run through CAC at Buckley Homestead at between 50 to 100 feet of both observatories. Lights, noise, vibrations and overall disruption created by the railway will, in essence, shut down the two observatories, both developed through public support, donations, grants and a National Science Foundation grant.

Established: June 1, 1968



In addition, Buckley Homestead County Park is a gift from the direct descendants of the original settlers given to the residents of Lake County to preserve our early Lake County heritage. Since 1978 programs have been dedicated to sharing the history of the family farm in south Lake County and teaching the importance of agriculture to tens of thousands of school children and their families. Hundreds of thousands more visitors have enjoyed the tranquility of Buckley, its programs and festivals; a quality that will be severely impacted with a rail line running through the site. Acquiring and preserving open space, preserving historic structures, developing educational programs and creating unique research facilities has taken many years of diligent efforts by many volunteers that could all be wiped away in a matter of months.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, with some of the buildings being original to the site since the middle 1850s, Buckley Homestead County Park is a treasure that must not be destroyed.

It is the intention of the Lake County Park Board to officially pass a resolution opposing the Great Lakes Basin Transportation rail like Chicago bypass at the next Park Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Jim Basala, CEO
and Secretary to the Board

JB/wl