

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN



CITATION OF COMMENDATION

KNOW YOU BY THESE PRESENTS:

WHEREAS, Jens Jensen was a trailblazing architect with an eye for preserving nature over aesthetics, informed by his philosophical belief that every project should involve working closely with native plants and ecology of a region's landscapes; and

WHEREAS, he immigrated from Denmark to the United States in 1884 and began working for the City of Chicago as a park laborer until becoming the superintendent and landscape architect of the city's Western Parks District; and

WHEREAS, Jens held a firm belief in the humanizing effects of parks and was a staunch advocate for the preservation of national parks, forest preserves, state parks, state forests, scenic areas, county parks, and urban wild areas; and

WHEREAS, he moved from Chicago to Door County, Wisconsin in 1935, where he continued his fervent advocacy for the preservation of the natural world and continued his contributions to the park system, becoming a principal proponent for The Ridges Sanctuary, Cave Point County Park, Whitefish Dunes State Park, and Ellison Bay Bluff County Park; and

WHEREAS, he established a folk school in 1935 called The Clearing, with the explicit aim of immersing architect students and the general public in nature and its benefits for the mind and body; and

WHEREAS, Jens Jensen has been inducted to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame for his passionate commitment to ensuring our natural spaces and parks are protected; now

THEREFORE, the members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, on the motion of Representative Katrina Shankland, do hereby honor Jens Jensen for his remarkable life and dedication to wild space preservation and thank him for his tremendous contributions to the Wisconsin parks system and preserving our natural world.

Katrina Shankland
Representative Katrina Shankland
71st Assembly District

Saturday, April 24, 2021

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