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STATE OF UTAH
SCHOOL & INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION
675 EAST 500 SOUTH, SUITE 500
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102

TWENTY FIVE YEARS IN THE MAKING - THE OPENING OF BIG WATER'S TOWN PARK

Big Water's founding father, Alex Joseph, requested land 25 years ago from the then current land owners, the BLM for a town park. In 2007, several years after Alex's death, the town clerk discovered a letter. In the letter the BLM had granted the request.

In the meantime the Grand Staircase Escalante Monument was declared by former President Clinton. Several acres of School Trust Lands were captured in this move. In trade for the captured lands, the federal government granted lands in other areas of the state, including a large blocked area in Big Water. The park was included in this block.

Boudicca Joseph sent a letter to the Director of the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA), Kevin Carter, and informed him of the promised park. Part of the land had already been leased to a gravel company but Big Water received eight acres for their park.

Several months and volunteered labor later, the town held its first event on April 24, 2010 with a Potluck lunch and hotdogs.

SITLA is an independent state agency that manages 3.4 million acres of Utah trust lands for the benefit of Utah's schools and other public institutions. Money generated from the school trust lands is deposited in the state Permanent School Fund, a perpetual endowment that annually distributes income to each K-12 public school in Utah.

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