

Project Case Study: Indian Trails Camp



Project Name	Indian Trails Camp
Project Location	Near Grand Rapids, MI
Project Size	20 beds and 20 drawers
Building Type	Camping Cabins
Project Team	Norix Furniture Indian Trails Camp
Product List	Titan® Bunkable Beds Titan® 3 Drawer Chest

CASE STUDY

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DESCRIPTION:

Located six miles west of Grand Rapids, MI, Indian Trails Camp has provided camping opportunities to those with disabilities for more than 60 years. The camp caters to individuals – ages 5 to 70 – with cerebral palsy, down-syndrome, autism, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, among other disabilities. Campers return each year to enjoy activities such as archery, music, dances, swimming, competitive sports “and most of all, the opportunity to make friendships and build relationships that affirm and encourage greater self-discovery,” according to the camp’s website.

“Our mission at Indian Trails Camp is to provide individuals with disabilities an enriched life experience through recreation, advocacy and meaningful relationships,” Tim Hileman, Executive Director at Indian Trails Camp, said.

The camps’ roots start back in 1952 when parents of children with disabilities organized and sought out summer recreational opportunities for their children, according to its website. The group – supported by the Grand Rapids Public School System – looked for ways to create a camp that was dedicated solely to children with disabilities. Soon after, they were granted a 15 acre site within Aman Park, and in 1953 the camp opened its doors.



OVERALL PROJECT GOAL / PHILOSOPHY

According to consultative sales specialist Doug Brower, Indian Trails Camp had previously been using beds made of wood and was looking to move to a product that was more durable and made of different material.

“Beds made of wood can sometimes present problems such as bed bug infestation, and oftentimes they are not as durable as other products,” Brower said. “Indian Trails was looking to purchase furniture that helped them overcome their furniture issues while still providing an aesthetically pleasing look.”

Hileman added that when it comes to furniture, camps can present unique challenges that often are not found in other environments.

“We needed durable furniture because it has to last throughout the year in a camp setting,” Hileman said. “Being in a camp setting can cause furniture to wear more quickly because of its constant use and proximity to the outdoors.”

Aesthetic goal: The camp wanted furniture that matched the interior of the cabins so there would be a cohesive feel that made campers feel more comfortable.

Safety/security goal: Hileman said the safety of campers and staff is highly important and when considering furniture their choices are based off of what will make campers most comfortable.

Brower added, "Since the camp provides opportunities to those with mental and physical disabilities, it was very important that they chose furniture that provided additional security for the campers."

Functional goal: Hileman said the camp needed furniture that is easy to move around within cabins and that could be arranged in different configurations as the camp's needs change.



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SELECTION PROCESS

Brower met with officials at the camp to discuss their needs and to present the product options that Norix could provide. After discussing different options, Brower recommended the Norix Furniture Titan® Series as an appropriate choice for the camp. The Titan® Series offers several products – beds, drawers, wardrobe lockers and desks – that are made of heavy gauge steel, with headboards and accents made of high pressure laminate which provide an attractive wood grain appearance.

All products are made with powder coated steel, come in a variety of colors to choose from and are GREENGUARD and GREENGUARD Gold Certified by UL Environment. Titan® also comes with a 10 year limited replacement warranty and is known to humanize challenging environments while still delivering maximum strength and durability.

THE RESULTS:

After meeting with Brower, Indian Trails Camp decided on 20 Titan® Bunkable Panel Base Beds and 20 Titan® 3-drawer chests that are now installed in two cabins that are occupied by children. Khaki was the color that was chosen because it helped the product blend in with the wood paneled floors and walls.

“Titan was a great choice for them because it provides maximum durability and flexibility,” Brower said. “They started with beds and drawers, but in the future they may need desks or wardrobes, and Titan® provides those. And since the beds they chose are bunkable, they have the option of creating bunk beds which won’t take up additional floor space.”

Currently the 20 beds are being used by campers during this busy camping season and according to Hileman the furniture has performed well.

Brower adds, “We have spoken to them and they love it. It’s just what they were looking for. Titan® provides a full range of offerings and gives them additional options down the road.”

ABOUT NORIX:

Norix designs innovative, robust furniture that meets the real-world need for humanizing challenging environments. For more than 30 years, the company has served the behavioral healthcare, corrections, higher education, fire/rescue, military, shelter, public safety and variety of commercial industries by providing uniquely reliable furnishings for every application.

All furniture is designed for safety, security and extreme durability. Norix furniture is extraordinary by design, surpassing industry standards for strength, safety and long-term performance. Aside from its durability, Norix products also come in aesthetically pleasing designs and colors and are made especially for facilities that require furniture that can humanize their environments.

The privately held company is headquartered in West Chicago, IL with consultative sales representatives and dealers throughout the U.S. In 2012, Norix launched Safe Environments, a news and information blog serving architects, designers, administrators and facility managers involved in the design, construction, and operation of challenging environments.

For more information, call 800-234-4900 or visit www.norix.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Norix Furniture’s Titan® Series - http://www.norix.com/titan_products.asp

Indian Trails Camp - <http://indiantrailscamp.org>

