

Vilas Park

Archaeology Approach

Presented by Adam Kaniewski (Parks Staff) and
John Hodgson (Phase One Archaeological Services)

Background



Vilas Park Master Plan was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners on March 10, 2021

Parks staff erroneously indicated that a complete Phase 1 Archeological Survey had been completed for the park.



March 18, 2021 – Letter from Parks Superintendent, Eric Knepp, to Board of Park Commissioners

“Commitment to conducting a Phase 1 Archaeological Survey prior to additional design development work.”



Numerous construction projects have been included in the Park Division’s Capital Improvement Projects budget in upcoming years

Phase 1 Archaeological Survey

- Requires literature and records review to inform field investigation
- Sometimes require sampling of the investigated area using soil cores or hand excavated shovel pits the size of a small tree planting.
- Prepare technical report

Information from the Guide for Public Archeology in Wisconsin, The Wisconsin Archeological Survey, August 2012



Proposed Approach



Report to be prepared by Phase One Archaeological Services (John Hodgson). The report will...

Summarize available information on known cultural resources in the Park

Provide a discussion on cultural resources in the park

Explain laws in place to protect cultural resources

Outline processes surrounding future construction within the park

Involve the Ho-Chunk Nation as a consulting party to the extent the Nation wishes to participate



Public presentations and website content to be prepared by Phase One Archaeological Services echoing information provided in report

Website will be hosted as a Parks Project Page



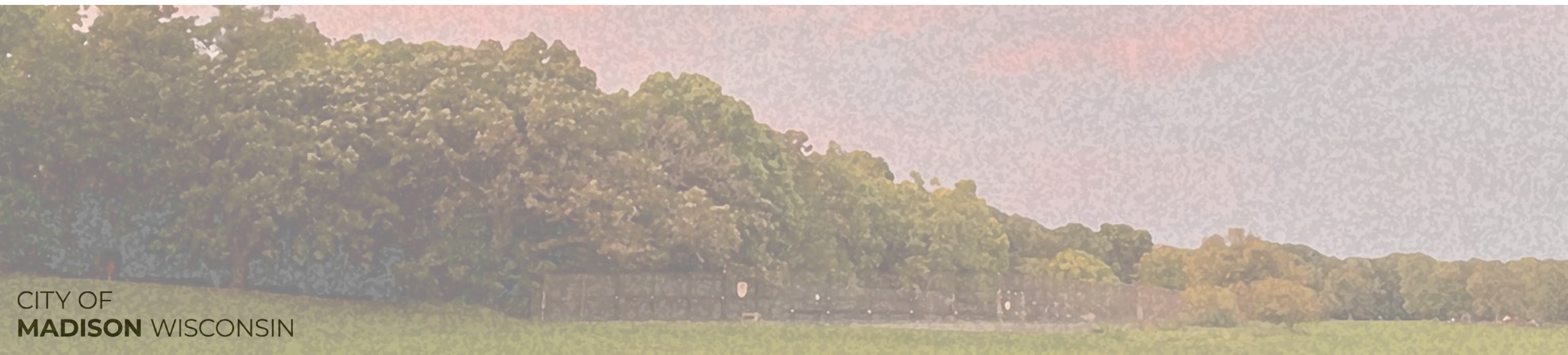
No destructive testing (subsurface) will be done as part of the report phase

Subsurface testing will be done as needed in the future, after proposed ground disturbance areas are identified, in-order to reduce the area of destructive testing.

Project planning, including public engagement, will be necessary to identify limits of proposed ground disturbance prior to performing destructive testing.

Proposed Approach

- Destructive (subgrade) testing when done prior to identifying a ground disturbance boundary..
 - May unnecessarily disturb land that will not be disturbed with the project
 - Is not a “catch-all”. Cultural resources may be present between subsurface sampling locations
 - Monitoring during construction activities would still be required in most scenarios.



Proposed Approach

- Future construction projects and ground disturbing maintenance activities
 - Follow processes outlined in report
 - Follow all laws in place to protect cultural resources
 - Follow Wisconsin Historical Society directives to protect cultural resources

