

To have been published on the August 23, 2023 Agenda:

From: Ron Shutvet <rshutvet@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 1:32 PM

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Subject: Lake Monona Waterfront Master Plan

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Members of the Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-Hoc Committee,

I have attached a PDF to this email that contains links to documentation of the Native American history of the Lake Wingra and Lake Monona area. I met with Alan Arnsten on Friday to briefly discuss the Native American history of this area and told him I was working on this document and finally completed it today. I am sending this document to all of you with the hope that you can all review it over the next few days before you have your tour of the northern portion of Olin Park next Wednesday, August 16.

I strongly believe you need to avoid significantly altering the topography of the northern portion of Olin Park to create a large wetland in this area. Lowering the remaining glacially deposited higher ground would detract from the fact that the glacial ridges that were originally much taller from O'Sheridan Street across the railroad and John Nolen Drive corridor to the existing glacial hill at the new Madison Parks building once were crossed by a heavily traveled Native American trail system that connected their settlements in the Vilas Park area to their settlements in the Whenniquah area of Monona. The only original wetlands in this area existed near the southern boundary of the northern portion of Olin Park and drained to the existing wetland that Wingra Creek travels through just before it enters Lake Monona.

If any of you have any questions about the data and images presented in the document, feel free to contact me and I can try to explain the documentation better.

Ron Shutvet

Links to Documentation of the Native American History of the Lake Wingra and Lake Monona Area

[**The Dividing Ridge - Historic Madison Inc**](#)

[**Linear Mound on the Dividing Ridge, WHi-38942**](#)

When viewing the images at the two links below, scroll down below the image to read the description of the image on the Flickr webpage.

[**The Dividing Ridge - 1901 Topographic Map Superimposed on 2015 Google Map Image**](#)

[**The Dividing Ridge - 1859 Plat Sketch Superimposed on 2015 Google Map Image**](#)

When viewing the image in the next link below, scroll down below the image to read the description of the image on the Flickr webpage. If you want to see the image in greater detail, you can download the image to your computer and then zoom in on the image to see greater details with an image viewing app on your computer. To download the image, click on the download arrow at the lower right hand corner of the image and choose the original image file to download.

[**The Dividing Ridge - View from the Capitol Dome 1898**](#)

The following set of links takes you to various pages in a digital copy of The Wisconsin Archeologist Volume 14, No. 3 published in 1915. Take time to read past the linked page to the end of that section of the document as there is a wealth of valuable information on the Native American history of the Lake Wingra and Dividing Ridge areas. The set of links below take you to just some of the Native American earthworks detailed in this document. If you have the time, It is recommended you page through the entire document for more documentation of the Native American history of this area.

[**Lake Wingra Area - The Wisconsin Archeologist Volume 14, No. 3, Page 75**](#)

[**The Dividing Ridge – The Wisconsin Archeologist, Volume 14, No. 3, Page 82**](#)

[**Greenbush Mounds – The Wisconsin Archeologist, Volume 14, No. 3, Page 89**](#)

[**Vilas Park Group – The Wisconsin Archeologist, Volume 14, No. 3, Page 91**](#)

[**Bear Effigy and Curtis Mounds – The Wisconsin Archeologist, Volume 14, No. 3, Page 95**](#)

[**Edgewood Group – The Wisconsin Archeologist, Volume 14, No. 3, Page 104**](#)

Photographs of the Lake Monona shoreline area between the present Madison Parks building at 330 East Lakeside and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad tracks that cross the lake

The next link below is to an image of the Lake Monona shoreline between the railroad causeway and former Madison Sanitarium, 1907 ca. The photographer is facing west and standing on the glacial hill that still exists just west of the new Madison Parks building located at 330 East Lakeside Street. Note the steep hill along the lakeshore. There is no marsh or wetland along the shoreline in this area.

[**https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM39433**](https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM39433)

Two men pose on an ice boat on Lake Monona. This image was taken around 1915 near the south shore of Lake Monona where the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad tracks cross the lake. The photographer is facing east and standing on the railroad track causeway. The John Nolen Drive causeway was constructed in the mid 1960's at the location this ice boat is parked in this image. The building on the lake in the background is the Madison Sanitarium. It was located west of the present Madison Parks building located at 330 East Lakeside Street. The Madison Sanitarium opened in 1903 and specialized in nervous and digestive disorders and hydrotherapy. Note the steep hill along the lakeshore. There is no marsh or wetland along the shoreline in this area. Prior to the influx of new settlers to the Madison area, Native Americans utilized the high ground between the Vilas Park area and the Turville Point area as a portion of an extensive trail system between their many encampments in the Madison area.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/south-madison-history/16599464740/in/album-72157651236255276/>

The next link takes you to a postcard on Flickr.com that shows a view of the Madison Sanitarium property from Lakeside Street, 1910 ca. This parcel of land was part of the high ground between The Dividing Ridge and Turville Point that was traversed by Native Americans for centuries prior to the influx of settlers of European decent that began in 1837.

[Madison Sanitarium postcard, Madison, Wisconsin](#)

Links to cropped portions of historical maps of the Madison area that portray the topography of the lands south of Lake Monona in the vicinity of Olin-Turville Park and Lake Wingra

A Native American trail followed the high land along the lakeshore from the Dividing Ridge to Turville Point where a communal canoe landing connected the trail by canoe to the Winnequah shoreline across Lake Monona to the east. The lake shoreline at the mouth of Wingra Creek was probably used to ford the mouth of Wingra Creek as this shoreline would have had a sand bottom along the lake shoreline at that time. The marshland that Wingra Creek runs through has a soft muck bottom that would have been difficult to travel across. Wingra Creek today has been altered by dredging and the water is probably somewhat deeper at its mouth than it was prior to the 1850's. The entire length of Wingra Creek has also been altered and straightened by dredging to improve the flow of water down the creek from Lake Wingra. However, it still has a soft muck bottom along most of the channel.

[Photograph of a portion of an 1855 Map of Madison](#)

[Portion of the 1901 Hydrographic Map of Lake Monona](#)

Link to a 1967 Wisconsin State Journal newspaper article containing information about the Native American history of the Olin-Turville Parks area

The newspaper article link below contains a description of the Native American presence along the south shore of Lake Monona during and before the early 1800's and up to the 1850's. It describes the existence of a Native American trail that crossed the Turville property to a communal canoe landing at Turville point that was used to travel over the lake to and from the Native American settlements along the south shore of Lake Monona in the Winnequah area of what is now the city of Monona. To access this newspaper article, you must first follow the instructions to log in to free access to NewspaperArchive.com. the first link below to go to the help page on the Friends of Olin-Turville website and follow the instructions to log into NewspaperArchives.com from the Madison

Public Library login screen before you click on the newspaper article link. You will need to use the 14 digit number on your Madison Public Library card to login first for the free access.

<https://www.olin-turville.com/history/linking-to-news-articles>

Note: Open the above link in a separate window and follow the instructions on the page that opens before clicking the link below. Then leave that window open and come back to the link below to open the newspaper page.

Turville Property History WSJ 01-22-1967 page 29

If you get a NewspaperArchive.com login screen after clicking the above link, you are not properly logged in to NewspaperArchive.com from the Madison Public Library or other free access portal and need to try to log in again using the method above.

This PDF document was created by Ron Shutvet as a historical image and data resource for the Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-Hoc Committee and the Lake Monona Waterfront Master Plan public input process. This document was created on August 12, 2023.
