Lake Mendota Drive Madison's first Park and Pleasure Drive needs an update.

Lake Mendota Drive



Lake Mendota Drive MPPDA Remnant, Cronon 6250

Madison's first Park and Pleasure Drive was founded in 1892. The tree-lined canopy grows more enchanting every year.

MADISON PARK & PLEASURE DRIVE ASSOCIATION

During the 19th Century, Willow Creek marked the western edge of the University of Wisconsin campus and the end of University Drive. In 1892, at the suggestion of Prof. Edward T. Owen, a committee of public-spirited citizens constructed a "pleasure drive" west from this point, opening the privately-owned Lake Mendota shoreline for public enjoyment. As part of this project, the first Willow Creek bridge was built. The drive, intended for saddle horses, carriages, and bicycles, crossed University Bay Marsh, ascended Eagle Heights, and followed the shoreline to Merrill Springs (Spring Harbor). In 1894, the committee became the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association under the leadership of John M. Olin. Relying on voluntary contributions, this renowned organization established other pleasure drives as well as Tenney, Vilas, and Brittingham Parks. In 1938, its activities were assumed by the Madison Parks Commission and the Association dissolved.

PLAQUE ERECTED IN 1995 BY HISTORIC MADISON, INC. WITH FUNDS FROM THE MADISON TRUST OF THE BRITTINGHAM FUND, INC., TO MARK THE CENTENNIAL OF INCORPORATION OF THE MADISON PARK AND PLEASURE DRIVE ASSOCIATION. <u>UW Lakeshore Preserve</u> cares. "It is amazing that this stretch of road still survives. It wouldn't take much to destroy it: just a little widening to make the road 'safer' and more 'efficient,' and it would be gone forever. This little stretch of roadway is arguably even more fragile than the forests that surround it, and deserves our care as much as anything else in the Lakeshore Preserve."

https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/visit/places/madison-park-andpleasure-drive-remnants/ The City of Madison was gifted all these parks and parkways

to the city of Madison in memory of

in 1938.

YAHARA RIVER PARKWAY **O.C. SIMONDS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT** 1903-1906

THE YAHARA RIVER PARKWAY WAS THE FIRST PARKWAY BUILT IN MADISON. DESIGNED BY O.C. SIMONDS IN THE PRAIRIE STYLE, IT FEATURES NATIVE PLANTINGS ARRANGED IN AN IRREGULAR, PEATORES NATIVE PLANTINGS ARRANGED IN AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RIVER. THE NATURALISTIC MANNER ALONG THE BANKS OF THE RIVER. THE PARKWAY WAS DESIGNED WITH MEANDERING PATHS, FEW OF WHICH, REMAIN. NINE HISTORIC BRIDGES CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE PARKWAY; THE OLDEST, CONSTRUCTED IN 1904, IS THE WILLIAMSON STREET BRIDGE. THE PARKWAY IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT FOR ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE MADISON PARK AND PLEASURE DRIVE ASSOCIATION WHOSE WORK INFLUENCED THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTER OF MADISON.

DESIGNATED MAY 08, 1995 MADISON LANDMARKS COMMISSION



+ Arboretum pr

VILAS

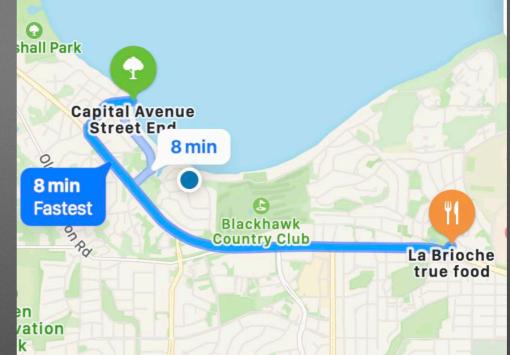
THIS PARK WAS A GEFT TO THE MADISON PARK AND PLEASURE DREVE ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE CITY OF MADISON BY COLONEL WILLIAM FREEMAN VILAS AND ANNA M VILAS IN 1904. AT THEIR REQUEST, THE PARK WAS NAMED BENRY VILAS PARK IN MENORY OF THEIR SON WHO DIED OF DIABETES IN HIS EARLY TWENTIFS. EARLY TWENTIES.

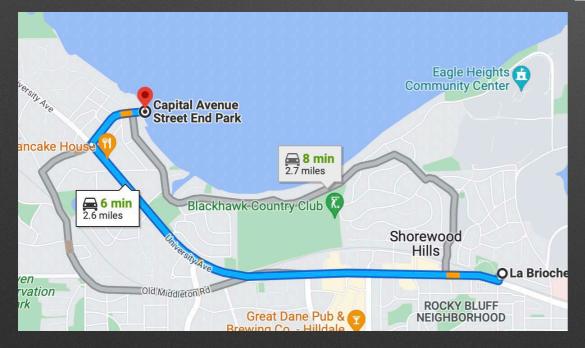
EABLY TWENTIES. THE PAPE INCLUDES 60 ACRES: IWENTY-FIVE OF MIGH GROUND AND 35 ACRES CONSTRUCTED OUT OF THE BOG THE LATTED INCLUDES FOR ACRES OF WATER SUBFACE IN THE FORM OF LAGOONS THE PARE WAS DESIGNED BY LAND SCAPE ARCHITECT O C SIMONDS THE PAPE ROUSES THE BENRY VILLS 200 WHICH SEGAN IN 1011 WITH THE LUNATION OF FIVE DEER BY THOMAS C ATCHMOND. IN THE ENSUING YEARS NUMEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CITY OF MADISON THE ZOOLDONCAL JANK AQUARITY SOCIETY THE CONMONITY HAVE PROVIDED SOCIETY, AND THE CONMONITY HAVE PROVIDED OF THE FINEST SMALL ZOOS IN THE COUNTER. FINEST SMALL 2003 IN THE COUNTRY

THE STORE STORE

Lake Mendota Drive

It's a parkway, not a transit route. Apple and Google Maps direct cars to University Ave even when the starting point is on the lake.





And if you are a bike commuter, its faster to use the Bike Path just 500 yards



Don't let the name 'Drive' fool you. Madison parkways are mostly used for pedestrians and pleasure bikers.

 Rebore

Lake Mendota Drive

Vilas Drive

Owen Parkway

This parkway connects us to water, nature, history, culture and each other.

- Public beach
- Public boat launch
- Public lake access
- Playground
- Effigy mounds
- Sacred Springs

Mąąką' Mąą'i

Merrill Spring Park

Capital Avenue Street End Park

Boat Launch

Spring Harbor Beach

Effigy at Spring Harbor School

What's missing?

There is no meaningful awareness of the Native Americans who were here for millennia and still value its sacred treasures today.

National Register of Historic Places Three Bears Effigy Mounds

And, um... there are 30 effigy mounds honored in this area.

We appreciate our stewards.

IN LOVING MEMORY DICK ANDREWS & RUTH PILGER ANDREWS

And, um...



And, um... many call it Mąąką' Mąą'i

Would sidewalks make this parkway better...?





Not where those streets are made for walking!



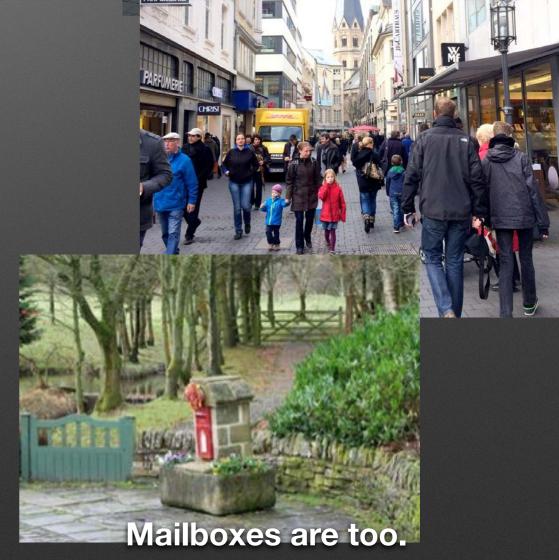
Folks on LMD on 4/9/22



Permeable Pavement improves water management



Shared Streets are all over the world



There would be room for informational waysides, parklets and art.



Respites need only a few feet of space.





There would be room for sustainable water management

Rain gardens can be rocky or lush.





Drains can be art.

Gardens can meet the walkway.

Lake Mendota Drive Madison's historic parkway has a mission.

- promote cross-cultural understanding of our human relationship to water through time
- provide stewardship of the land and water
- foster community engagement in recreational and educational activities.

Lake Mendota Drive Historic Parkway C. 2024

Be a friend to water. - Mąąką' Mąą'í