

AGENDA
MONONA PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
Tuesday October 19, 2021 6:30 PM
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – August 9, 2021, September 14, 2021
3. **Appearances**
 - A. Dane County Alliance Against Commercial Tobacco Presentation
4. **Unfinished Business**
 - A. None
5. **New Business**
 - A. Review/Discussion of Draft Mound Management Plan
 - B. Review/Recommendation of Land Acknowledgement Statement
 - C. Discussion/Approval of Pool Parking Lot Landscaping Project
6. **Director’s Report & Questions to Staff from Committee**
 - A. Jake Anderson – Parks & Recreation Director
7. **Updates/Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts**
8. **Adjournment**

NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Monona will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Joan Andrusz at (608) 222-2525 (not a TDD telephone number, Fax: (608) 222-9225, or through the City Police Department TDD telephone number 441-0399.

The public is notified that any final action taken at a previous meeting may be reconsidered pursuant to the City of Monona ordinances. A suspension of the rules may allow for final action to be taken on an item of New Business.

It is possible that members of and a possible quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information or speak about a subject, over which they have decision-making responsibility. Any governmental body at the above stated meeting will take no action other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.

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PARK AND RECREATION BOARD (Agenda Item 3A)
Meeting Date: October 19, 2021

AGENDA ITEM:

Dane County Alliance Against Commercial Tobacco

REQUESTED BY:

Jake Anderson

POLICY ANALYSIS STATEMENT:

Myranda Phelps-McGurie and Ryan Sheahan from Public Health Madison & Dane County will appear to present a report and discussion on tobacco free beaches and parks with signage recommendations.

Our current ordinance prohibits smoking where signs are posted although no current signage exists in the parks system due to budgetary restraints.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD (Agenda Item 5A)

Meeting Date: October 19, 2021

AGENDA ITEM:

Review/Discussion of Draft Mound Management Plan

REQUESTED BY:

Alder Molly Grupe

POLICY ANALYSIS STATEMENT:

Staff researched various Native American Mound Management policies and have developed a draft policy for the City of Monona. Enclosed is the draft policy. Staff has reached out to our contact at Ho-Chunk Nation but has not received a response for comment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Board should discuss the management plan, but staff recommends final recommendation to council be contingent on further discussions and consensus with Ho-Chunk Nation.

Monona Parks Burial Mounds Preservation Management/Guidance

DRAFT

8/2/2021

Purpose:

This document provides guidance on best practices for maintaining the grass cover on burial mound sites on San Damiano and the Outlet Mound.

This guideline addresses the current grass vegetation cover located at Midwood and Ridgewood Avenue (Outlet Mound). The vegetation cover at San Damiano are currently NOT covered by this guideline.

Current Mound Preservation Management/ Guidance Policy

Burial Mound Preservation and Maintenance

(Ho-Chunk Department of Heritage Preservation: Cultural Resources Division. "Burial Mound Preservation and Maintenance." 2007)

Naa (Tree) Maintenance

Tree removal: benefit: (1) promote light for growth of protective grass; (2) prevent tree falls and loss of integrity of mound.

Phase I. Remove all hazard dead leaning trees, decayed trees, trees with excessive branch loss.
Phase II. Remove all trees on mounds.

Contact the HCN Cultural Resources Division regarding the management of any Oaks within your proposed project.

Phase III. Remove all trees within five feet of mounds.

Contact the HCN Cultural Resources Division regarding the management of any Oaks within your proposed project.

Phase IV. Create an Oak savannah, White Pine grove, or native grassland area.

Considerations: remove all low land trees that have surface roots and no taproots.

1. All tree cutting in and around the mound site(s) is only done when the ground is completely frozen to eliminate ground disturbance.
2. No vehicles should ever be driven across or on the mound specific.
3. No removal of stumps from the mounds or buffer area.
4. All new growth/suckers from stumps should be hand cut for removal, to limit growth of woody vegetation. Limited amounts of scoring into the trunk area can be conducted, in order to expedite the decaying process.

Ground Maintenance

Natural means:

Prescribe burn - setting the area to fire.

Benefit:

- Reduces the woody plants
- Lowers the pH
- Promotes growth of protective grasses
- Low costs

Negative:

- Not always possible due to fire hazards or low fuel load.

Mechanical:

Mowing alternatives:

- Hand mow at a high setting to minimize ground disturbance
- Mow around the mounds regularly and push mow mounds only in early spring to promote grasses and to remove emergent seedlings
 - Benefits: higher grass on mounds - discourages pedestrian traffic and provides a protective cover.

Additional Considerations:

- No signage or large construction within the sound and viewscapes
- Use natural predictors for rodent issues

Updated Mound Preservation Management Suggestions

The burial sites policy (above) provides broad goals for managing mound sites. The updated land management guideline provides general direction for implementing the policy.

Of note, there are no state laws on how human burial sites should be maintained, as long as the sites are not disturbed.

Management Activity: “Manage vegetation to preserve visibility and structural integrity of mounds. The City will control vegetation to permit visibility of mound contours and structure.”

a) Inspections

- i) Routinely inspect mounds for disturbances (every two-four weeks).
 - (1) If a mound has soil disturbance from tree limbs (cut flush and remove brush) and animals (remove and fill hole by hand with soil).

b) Mowing

- i) No power mowers or ride-on mowers. Hand mowers only and mow as little as possible (a few times a year). Manually cutting vegetation with weed-wackers, brush cutters, or other tools may be appropriate alternatives to mowing on mounds.
 - (1) Maintain a higher grass height on mounds (4-12")
 - ii) Equipment operator: must be familiar with the mound shapes. Review site maps prior to mowing.
 - iii) Wait a full day after a rain event to mow mound sites.
 - iv) Convert turf grass to a different vegetative cover i.e., native grasses and forbs.
- c) Vegetative litter**
- i) Leaf litter should be removed from turf areas every autumn. Only walk behind leaf blowers or backpack blowers, or hand-rakes shall be used on raised mound features.
 - ii) Large sticks should be removed by hand as needed to reduce accumulation and prevent soil/vegetative disruption.
- d) Soil maintenance**
- i) Soil study- to make sure the soil conditions can support the transition of vegetative cover and reduce erosion.
 - ii) Do not aerate soil.
 - iii) Management activity within a burial site must be avoided during periods when the ground is saturated (e.g., spring thaw or following precipitation), or any other time that renders the site prone to erosion, compaction or disturbance from management activity.
- e) Invasive species**
- i) Manage invasive species by prescribed burns, or introducing native forbs and no-mow native fescue species as seeds by hand only.
 - ii) The use of herbicides, pesticides, and other chemical treatment is not allowed for vegetative treatment/pest control.
- f) Tree maintenance**
- i) Remove trees that are around the mound to reduce the risk of destructive falls and to increase the amount of sunlight reaching the mound.
 - ii) All tree cutting in and around the mound site(s) is only done when the ground is completely frozen to eliminate ground disturbance.
 - iii) No vehicles should ever be driven across or on the mound specific.
 - iv) No removal of stumps from the mounds or buffer area.
 - v) All new growth/suckers from stumps should be hand cut for removal, to limit growth of woody vegetation. Limited amounts of scoring into the trunk area can be conducted, in order to expedite the decaying process.
- g) Foot traffic**

- i) No signage or large construction within the sound and viewscapes of the mounds.
 - (1) Install signage adjacent to the mounds: interpretive/historical significance and do not disturb to redirect foot traffic.
- ii) Maintain higher grass on mounds as it discourages pedestrian traffic and provides a protective cover for structural integrity of the mound.

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD (Agenda Item 5B)

Meeting Date: October 19, 2021

AGENDA ITEM:

Review/Recommendation of Land Acknowledgement Statement

REQUESTED BY:

Jake Anderson

POLICY ANALYSIS STATEMENT:

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, and acknowledgement that many of our city parks are in historical natural areas used by Ho-Chunk Nation, we have drafted a land acknowledgement statement for review and potential adoption by the City of Monona. This policy can the start on greater appreciation and education for our residents and visitors to the historical use of our open space and create a welcoming message and coordination with Ho-Chunk Nation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Land and Indigenous People Acknowledgement

Monona Parks & Recreation department recognizes that the land we call, Monona, is the ancestral home of the local First Nation, Ho-Chunk. Prior to the introduction of white settlers the Ho-Chunk called this land Teejop (day-JOPE) which translates to *Four Lakes*. For millennia, this land was carefully cared for by the Ho-Chunk Nation despite continued federal and state government attempts to remove them. We acknowledge our local Ho-Chunk Nation whose ancestral lands we inhabit today and the additional 11 Indigenous Nations of Wisconsin that have shaped our state's history and our local community. We pay our respects to these peoples, both past and present, by coming together as a City to protect and honor the land and the Native mounds located throughout our parks. We encourage you to visit the web sites of the twelve First Nations that reside in the boundaries of the state of Wisconsin for more information.

[*Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*](#)

[*Brothertown Indian Nation*](#)

[*Forest County Potawatomi Community*](#)

[*Ho-Chunk Nation*](#)

[*Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians*](#)

[*Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians*](#)

[*Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin*](#)

[*Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin*](#)

[*Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians*](#)

[*Sokaogon Chippewa Community*](#)

[*St. Croix Chippewa Community*](#)

[*Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohican Indians*](#)

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD (Agenda Item 5C)
Meeting Date: October 19, 2021

AGENDA ITEM:

Discussion/Approval of Pool Parking Lot Landscaping Project

REQUESTED BY:

Jake Anderson

POLICY ANALYSIS STATEMENT:

The row of shrubs that separates the pool/tennis court parking lot and the sidewalk on Nichols Rd has been challenging to maintain over the years creating sight line issues for vehicles entering and leaving the parking lot. Staff would like to remove the entire row of shrubs and replant with a feather reed grass in the spring utilizing existing perennial plants from the parks system.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: