



Bill Quackenbush, a Ho-Chunk Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, taught students how to build a Ciporoke (Round-Dwelling). Source: Quick 2017.



Prairie restoration and oak tree management practices are utilized in Woodland Park. Source: McBride 2017.

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Partnership in Culture, Community, and Education

About Us

In the spring of 2017, a cohort of UW-Madison Nelson Institute students in an Environmental Studies Capstone, “Culture and Conservation: Living Ho-Chunk History in Monona Parks,” partnered with the Ho-Chunk Nation and the City of Monona Parks and Recreation Department to assist with cultural resource management preservation and education in Monona. The course instructor and project contact person is Jessie Conaway (jessie.conaway@wisc.edu).

Students provided support in the development and design of park signage with Ho-Chunk representation, educational curricula for children, web education materials, maps, and recommendations for a cultural management plan.

Contact Us

Monona Parks and Recreation Department

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A linear Mound in Woodland Park. Source: McBride 2017.

Ho-Chunk Nation Cultural Management and Preservation in Monona Parks

Designed and written by Nelson Institute students August McGinnity-Wake, Abby Sherman, and Maddie Bridge in collaboration with Ho-Chunk Nation and Monona Parks and Recreation Department

Ho-Chunk History and Ecosystem Management in Monona, WI

The ecosystems in the Monona Parks are naturally oak savanna, wetlands, and prairie. In recent centuries, natural ecosystems have been diminished due to development. There has been deliberate effort to restore prairie and oak savannas in Woodland Park. Removal of invasive species and the use of fire ecology encourage natural growth of these native landscapes.

There are two linear mounds built by Ho-Chunk ancestors located in Woodland Park.

Ecosystem restoration pairs well with the management of Ho-Chunk Mounds in the area. These Mounds were originally constructed in an oak savanna environment.



Oak savanna in Woodland Park.
Source: McBride 2017



UW Madison students, with Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Bill Quackenbush, learned how to use a ground penetrating radar (GPR) machine which could provide information on whether or not a Mound contains subsurface items.
Source: McBride 2017.

Practicing Cultural Respect

Being a culturally - responsible citizen includes the following etiquette:

- Respect the 5 foot buffer surrounding the Mounds.
- Avoid walking on the Mounds and designated cultural sites.
- Keep pets off the Mounds.

Ho-Chunk Nation and Mounds

Ho-Chunk ancestral homeland extends from the Illinois River to *Moga Shooch* (Red Banks) near Green Bay, WI.

There are more Mounds built by Indigenous People in Wisconsin than in any other region of North America. (There used to be 15,000 - 20,000. Now roughly 4,000 Mounds remain).

- The earliest Mounds are estimated to have been built around 500 BC (conical).
- Around 800 AD, Indigenous People began building effigy Mounds. They were built in the shape of birds, turtles, bears, panthers, and other animals.

Indigenous People created Mounds to express physical and spiritual lifeways. It is important to continue to regard these sites as was intended when they were originally created.

By learning about historic and contemporary Ho-Chunk use of Mounds, the Monona community will become more culturally informed.