



## Ho-Chunk Interpretive Project 2021-22

The Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area (FOCSRA) has joined with 5 other partners to plan an interpretive project with voices of the Ho-Chunk for Lunney Lake Farm Park and other parts of the Capital Springs Recreation Area. (CSRA).

Funding for planning the project in 2021 was provided by a Wisconsin Humanities Council Mini-Grant, with matching funds from FOCSRA and DC Historical Society. Four initial planning sessions took place in the summer of 2021. Danielle Benden, of Driftless Pathways, LLC facilitated the meetings.

Following you will find a few pages from the final report of the planning process. If anyone is interested in the whole report, we would be happy to send it to you electronically. Of special interest may be the Appendix pages which outline ideas for possible interpretive ideas and methods. We are continuing our planning in 2022 with the continued help of Danielle Benden of Driftless Pathways and funded by some of the partner organizations.



The partners include the following organizations. Recently we have also added DNR because of their ownership of part of CSRA and their interest.

### **Land Acknowledgement (developed by the partners for this project)**

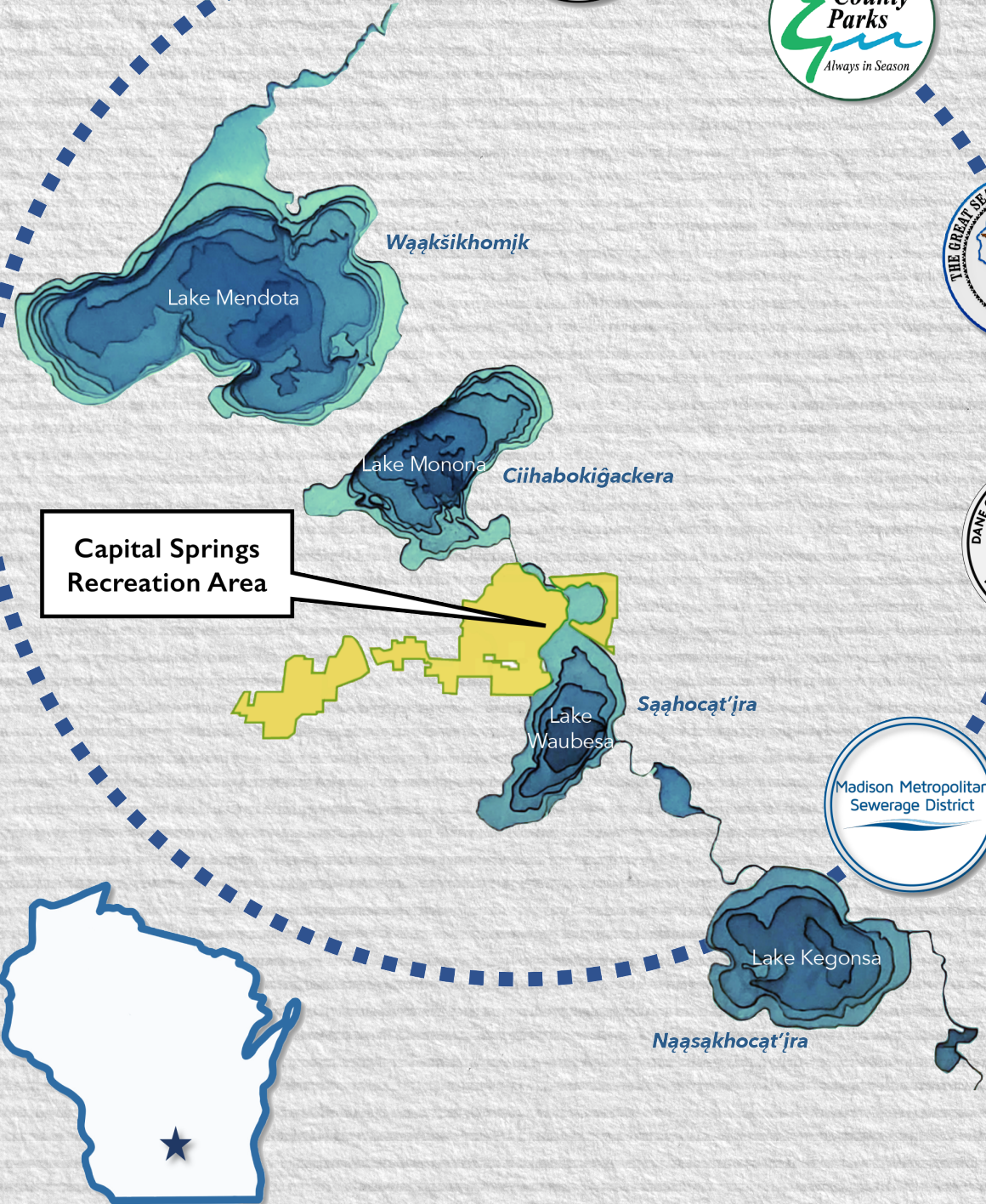
We acknowledge and honor the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation and all eleven American Indian Nations of Wisconsin. The land we are on is ancestral Ho-Chunk land from which they were forcefully removed.

We are committed to cultivating and maintaining an ongoing collaboration and partnership with the Ho-Chunk people.

More over, we recognize and acknowledge that we merely occupy the land as stewards, holding it in sacred trust so that we can pass it on to future generations.

# CAPITAL SPRINGS RECREATION AREA

## INTEPRETIVE PLANNING REPORT | 2021



Capital Springs  
Recreation Area

*Wąąksikhomjk*

Lake Mendota

Lake Monona

*Ciihabokiğackera*

Lake Waubesa

*Sąąhocąt'ira*

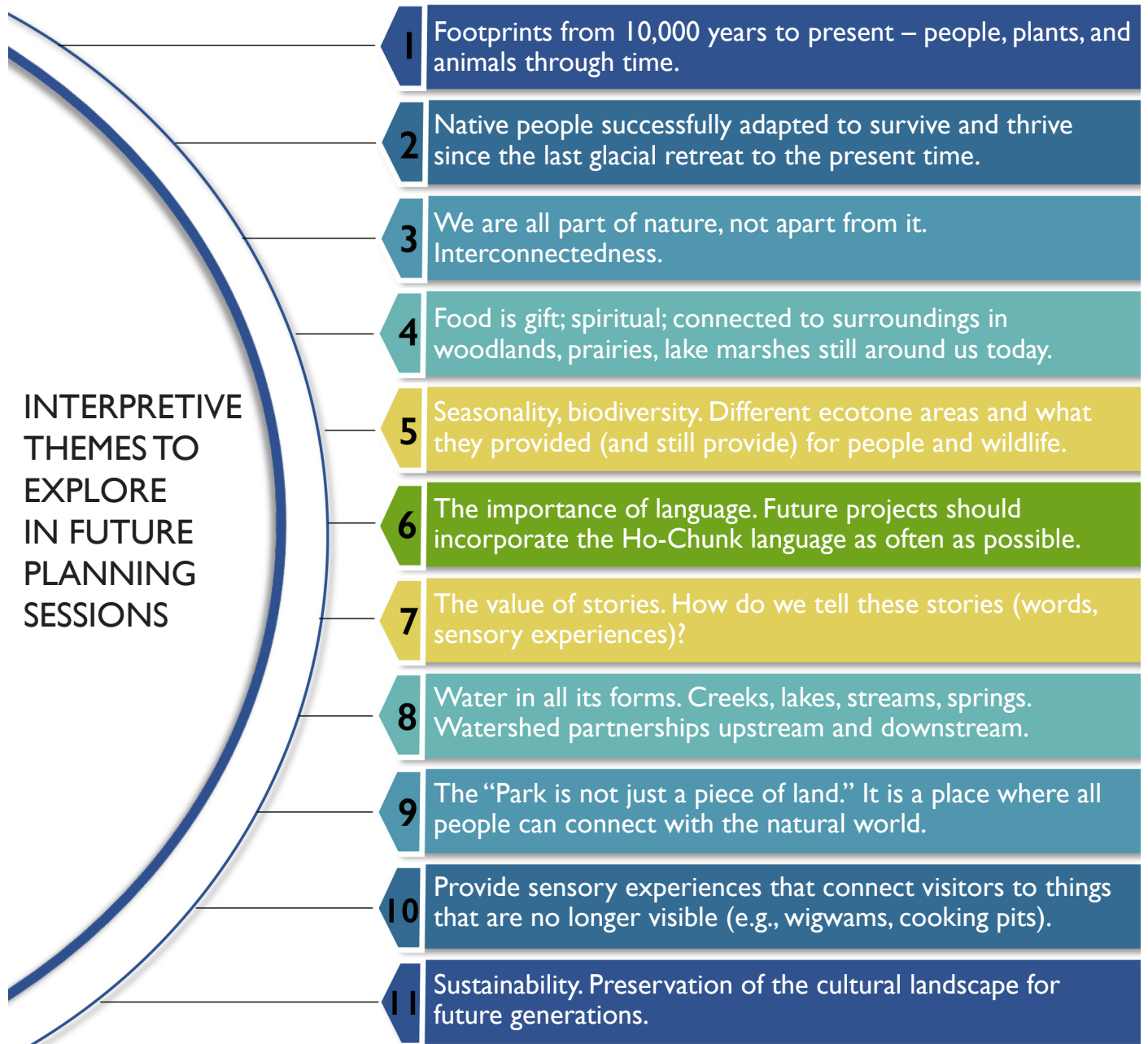
Lake Kegonsa

*Nąąsąkhocąt'ira*

Madison Metropolitan  
Sewerage District



Figure 13. Interpretive themes worthy of further exploration.



### ***Interpretive Content Themes and Main Ideas for Further Exploration***

Throughout the planning sessions, project partners consistently returned to discussions about key ideas for further exploration as the development of interpretive content for CSRA unfolds. The Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin would like dedicated spaces within the park to create opportunities for tribal members and constituents in Dane County and the Madison area to reconnect to the natural world. Other interpretive content ideas are summarized in the graphic above (Figure 13).

## NEXT STEPS

Moving forward, the project partners have agreed to meet quarterly, signaling a commitment to maintaining the relationship they have formed during the four initial planning sessions. Future planning efforts will build upon the ideas established during the initial planning sessions. Prioritized goals and objectives with specific benchmarks for completion will be established.

While it may take several years to finalize a larger interpretive plan for CSRA, there are smaller components that the partners may consider in the near term that fit within the shared vision and guiding principles they established during the initial planning sessions. For example, FOCSRA intends to coordinate directly with the Ho-Chunk Nation on events and outreach projects of mutual interest which may include producing educational videos with Ho-Chunk voices and storytelling; creating a map that shows Ho-Chunk ancestral homeland within the heart of CSRA; adding signs identifying the traditional Ho-Chunk names and traditional uses of plant throughout CSRA; and hosting Ho-Chunk programs like the Snovsnake Event, a traditional Ho-Chunk winter pastime.

The Lussier Family Heritage Center and Dane County Parks may work directly with the Ho-Chunk Nation to develop curriculum, youth programming, and adult half-day tours focusing on celebrating the deep connections that the Ho-Chunk people have to this place. Dane County Parks personnel will work with the Ho-Chunk Nation to provide space for tribal events as desired. Dane County Historical Society would like to create an interpretive exhibit about Teejopera (the Four Lakes Region) with an emphasis on how Lunney Lake Farm Park sits at the region's epicenter.

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) would like to collaborate with the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin to understand more about the cultural significance of the land that the district is on and how that significance can inform MMSD's outreach, programming, and stewardship of the land and water. The district would also like to go beyond just a "land acknowledgement", and work toward tangible outcomes and mutual benefits.

All project partners will continue to promote their collaborative efforts through social media posts, websites, and publicity as appropriate. Partners will seek support from their governing boards to adopt the Land Acknowledgment language. Once final approval is obtained, Land Acknowledgment signs can be created and installed across Dane County Parks and all project partners can use them in their promotional/educational materials.

As a next step, project partners should codify their working relationship in a Memorandum of Agreement.

### ***Future Partnerships, Input, and Funding***

Further exploration and development of the larger interpretive framework for CSRA should engage others within the established project partner organizations and the public. Outer tier partners and experts should be identified and called upon when necessary<sup>2</sup>. The project partners recognize that planning efforts for large-scale undertakings like this one takes time and financial resources to be effective and requires public input. They are committed to fostering their shared vision of preserving and protecting the natural and cultural landscape within CSRA; collaborating on mutually beneficial projects; and enhancing the visitor experience.

<sup>2</sup> A list of potential outer tier partners can be found in the Report Appendix.

## APPENDIX B

### *Interpretive Delivery Methods: Ideas to Explore in Future Planning Efforts*

- Art installation(s) from HCN artists, perhaps connected to words or not
- Provide quiet stops employing different sensory experiences | nature | imagining life here at other times, both in terms of season and depth of time (one hundred or thousands of years ago)
- Structure(s) that visitors experience/interact with – canoe, lodge or firepit for cooking?
- Tour-Mate System Box for audio at Lower Yahara River Trail
- Outdoor interpretive signs with images and text
- Hands on interactives (e.g., signs with flip-up panels, sliding or turning panels)
- Virtual land simulation – check out device at Heritage Center to use at site to see what life might have been like on the land (virtual/augmented reality)
- Phone app that allows visitors to interact with the land (audio/video/text)
- A “non-smart-phone” experience? Or, this could be a multi-level experience (both through technology and with non-technological means) – layered storytelling.
- Create curriculum to educate school/youth groups on the interpretive content listed previously - with a strong emphasis on “Footprints 10,000 years to present”.
- Three-dimensional maps/models showing the Four Lakes region, prehistoric and current day.

Another idea posed by FOCSRA Naturalist Clare Carlson is to make a **memory map** that places CSRA within the greater Teejopeja area that is meant to both educate and to connect us.

### *Heart of Teejopeja Trail (or other name that shows centrality of the area to people through time)*

WHAT: self-guiding trail with stops for learning about traditional uses, spirituality, and nature of this area throughout time as an ancestral Ho-Chunk Teejopeja camp.

TOOL: Use a memory map of the project area, (perhaps a bit more focused on Lunney Lake Farm so folks can see walking area?) but with important larger Teejopeja connections.

TOOL: Use **interesting installments** at each stop that **feature important components** of the heart as to why people came specifically here for thousands of years. Use a combination of paper booklet (briefer explanation to read while on the trail) that teaches about each component and some components with linking online videos for a richer dialogue. Perhaps using only Ho-Chunk voices?

## APPENDIX B *continued*

### *Installment Ideas & Component it represents*

#### **Installment: Model of traditional fire pit and/or camp**

Component: The land is a critical component to the heart of Teejopeja. It is where people reached high ground on lakeshore oak knolls. It is where people got out of the water to camp, sleep, rest, cook, eat, dry off, weave, enjoy breezes from lake/marsh to push away mosquitoes - for thousands of years.

#### **Installment: Night sky visual sensory stop in open-sky area**

Component: To explain sky meaning and spirituality, mound shapes and meanings within Teejopeja. What does sky mean to you today?

#### **Installment: Prairie art piece**

Component: prairie and oak savannah is unique habitat to southern WI -explain the importance of prairie fire to indigenous people, method still used today – traditional use/modern use of prairie

#### **Installment: Oak tree label, woodland flora and prairie labels, rice plant labels throughout heart of Teejopeja trail “traditional knowledge stops”**

Component: Reflect seasonal foods foraged here – abundance with marsh-lake, prairie, oak woodlands, and indigenous agriculture - plant labels could have photos, names in two languages, botanical name, and traditional uses and spiritual meaning

#### **Installment: Spear tip replicas through time**

Component: What game was hunted here through time? How did hunting change?

#### **Installment: Marsh-lake listening sensory stop**

Component: In winter and fall, listen to wind. Think about how it would blow across expansive marsh and connected lakes. Are you protected or exposed? In spring and summer, listen for frogs, birds, insects. Many are same species that are here today and are part of rich biodiversity of area after climate warmed and after Glacial Lake Yahara receded.

#### **Installment: Model canoe**

Component: Hoocak name of Lake Waubesa, lake of large reeds, and interconnection to Four-lake village called Teejopeja. Explain location of villages and how/when people moved from villages to camp areas such as the one here. What else was lake used for?

#### **Installment: Sensory-based?**

Component: About being here and connected. The earth is brother, sister, and grandmother. The earth is land, water, plants, critters, sky, weather, and the people who have walked this land and those who walk it today (you and me).

## Dug-out Canoe Welcome Event Agenda

I. Tuesday, June 21, 1 – ~3pm at William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park, 4330 Libby Road, Madison, 53711, shelter 2

### II. Order of Events

- a) Pier will have a flag of the Ho-Chunk Nation
- b) Meet at the pier at lake edge to watch canoe arrive
- c) Let attendees chat and hear from Bill Q and other canoeists
- d) Speeches
- e) Serve lunch
- f) Shelley Thundercloud's Youth have an opportunity ride or sit in canoe (Bill Q will lead).



### III. Guest speakers list

- a) Bill Quackenbush is the MC and educator about the canoe journey



- b) Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive
- c) Bill Lunney, Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area, Foundation for Dane County Parks
- d) Chris James, Dane County Land & Water Resources Department, Dane County Parks
- e) Clare Carlson, Naturalist, FOCSRA

### IV. Meal & shelter setup

- a) Catering Ancestral Food from Wild Bearies, Inc. in Tomah
- b) Drumming and singing by Madtown Singers



### V. Public Relations

- a) Media documentation of Welcome event
  - i) Purple Onion, working with WI Historical Society and James Skibo, State Archaeologist, to record the event
  - ii) Discover Wisconsin working with Casey Brown, Ho-Chunk
  - iii) DCP invites photographers for the event

### MASTER NATURALIST SUMMARY

- **April 2022**
- **Summary of approach and activities** – Created course focused on connecting MN students with hands-on park nature experiences and interactions with field experts - incorporated park partners (DCP, MMSD), UW-Madison, Ho-Chunk Nation and others to bring this approach to fruition.
- **Highlights**
  - Capital Springs Recreation Area was an ideal location for the training: wetlands, prairies, woods with variety of plants and wildlife
  - Access to a number of highly qualified speakers from UW Madison, Arboretum and Dane County, Bill Quakenbush provided invaluable presentation about Native Americans
  - Post course survey demonstrated acquisition of knowledge, confidence and motivation to participate in accessing and volunteering

### COMMUNITY SCIENCE & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

- **Bumble Bee Area Surveys**
  - Three times per month, we conduct bumble bee surveys with volunteers at different locations throughout Capital Springs Recreation Area (CSRA). The data is reported to the DNR's Bumble Bee Brigade survey program support Wisconsin pollinator conservation and habitat restoration.
  - **Ten species have been found within CSRA from these surveys**, including endangered Rusty patched Bumble Bee. This work helps us select bee-favored native plants in the prairie restoration and pollinator demonstration gardens at the Lussier Family Heritage Center, We work in cooperation with DCP, Lussier Family Heritage Center, and Madison Area Master Gardeners Association.
  - We co-hosted DNR and UW Arboretum's **Bumble Bee Brigade training** last month.
  - We've developed **pollinator and plant guides** for the public to learn the names of the pollinators (including common bumble bees) and to consider growing these important native plants at home.
- **Water Monitoring on Nine Springs Creek**

Volunteers monitor two locations on Nine Springs Creek, collecting water samples, measuring, dissolved oxygen, and other data. We've monitored for over ten years.
- **American Kestrel Box Monitoring**

We monitor three Kestrel boxes within CSRA through the Madison Audubon Society and the American Kestrel Partnership.
- **INaturalist Capital Springs Recreation Area Project**
  - A Master Naturalist graduate created a CSRA project within INaturalist in order that all reported plant and wildlife sightings are documented within the CSRA and its individual park units. With the project, we have a record of flora and fauna at the park. The 2018 BioBlitz data (event hosted by Milwaukee Public Museum) is also entered into the project.
  - We plan to host a **virtual event in early spring of 2023** to teach community science volunteers how to use this technology to help us populate a list of park spring ephemerals in April – June 2023.
- **Monarch Monitoring in 2023**

Two Master Naturalist graduates would like to set up a monitoring program as Capital Springs Recreation Area is designated a Monarch Waystation. I'm helping them identify all plants in the chosen prairie and to promote project.
- **Bat House Complexes**

Two new complexes. Bat monitoring program through DNR in 2023.
- **Odonata Presentation**

8/18; 1:30 – 4pm, LFHC & LLFCP – Master Naturalist graduate Bob Honig will present slides and information about Wisconsin dragonflies and damselflies. The presentation will be followed by a catch-and-release odonata walk at the pond at LLFCP.
- **Other Educational Activities:**
  - Conduct monthly nature and bird walks.
  - Help lead Junior Naturalist program in prairie and woodland curriculum, many scout groups, Eagle Scout projects, and other youth throughout the spring and summer.
  - Conducting a 2022 William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park 2022 bird count.
  - Developed a nature, recreational and cultural week of activities for Ho-Chunk Nation youth in June with Shelley Thundercloud, Center Director Ho-Chunk Youth Services.