

NAMING THE NORTH MENDOTA NATURAL RESOURCE AREA IN THE TOWN OF WESTPORT TO WAAKIKIŽU NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

In 2007, Dane County purchased 172 acres in the Town of Westport for the North Mendota Natural Resource Area (NRA). More than a mile of Six-Mile Creek runs through the property and restoring the property along the creek helps to reduce sedimentation and erosion and enhance the water quality of creek, which flows south into Lake Mendota. Along with protecting the natural habitat, the property provides a link of the North Mendota Bicycle Trail, which will eventually connect to Schumacher Farm County Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Mendota County Park and the Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

The Waunakee Community Middle School teachers and students worked with the Dane County Park Commission to name the North Mendota NRA as part of the student's curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year.

Through the project, the students learned about the history of the property, took field trips on-site and eventually narrowed down to a list of five naming options, all Ho-Chunk language words. Finally, the names were voted on by the middle school students. The winner of the middle school election was Waakikižu Natural Resource Area. Waakikižu means community or togetherness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors thank the teachers and students at the Waunakee Community Middle School for their time and commitment to this unique civics project.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that North Mendota Natural Resource Area in the Town of Westport be named to the Waakikižu Natural Resource Area.