

# GARMAN NATURE PRESERVE & INDIAN MOUNDS COUNTY PARK

## Final Design

FEBRUARY 2020



**106GROUP**  
Connecting People + Place + Time

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# INTRODUCTION



## BACKGROUND

The Jefferson County Parks Department seeks to develop a series of interpretive signs and maps for the Garman Nature Preserve in Waterloo, WI and Indian Mounds County Park near Fort Atkinson, WI. The signs will share interpretive information on topics such as natural history, glacial features, ongoing vegetation restoration, and the Native American mound culture that built the burial mounds. Signs will also provide wayfinding and orientation information to help visitors move through the parks.

The Dr. J.S. Garman Nature Preserve (GNP) is a wooded hillside within the City of Waterloo. Steep topography on the west side of the park levels out at the top of the hill where visitors can see 22 Native American mounds. The woods include oak, hickory, maple, and cherry species. Some pines and spruce were planted within the woods and along the north edge. The park entrance is on Fox Lane off of McKay Way and Knowlton Street, and the existing facilities include a parking lot, trails, benches, and a kiosk. A secondary access trail connects the Waterloo Regional Trailhead facility to the park.

Indian Mounds County Park (IMP) is on Koshkonong Mounds Road south of Fort Atkinson. At this five-acre park, visitors can view 11 Native American effigy mounds by hiking a loop trail through the woods. The park includes part of an ancient walking trail.

Over three days (October 8-10, 2019), Jefferson County and partner/volunteer personnel met with the 106 Group team to assess wayside (sign) locations; discuss interpretive topics, park challenges, and orientation/wayfinding needs; and determine potential ways of enhancing the visitor experience. The site visit included a startup workshop to review the wayside development process and develop an interpretive framework. A closeout meeting shared the results of the on-site work with stakeholders and sought their input. Site visit activities were documented in a Trip Report (dated October 18, 2019).

A Concept Plan (dated November 21, 2019) provided subject and purpose statements, content notes, suggested graphics, and other details for the planned exhibits. On February 5, 2020, Jefferson County personnel met with the Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) and 106 Group staff to tour the sites and discuss the Concept Plan. Participants assessed each site and story, considered the content and approach presented in the concept plan, and talked about next steps and the potential of bringing others to the site.

A Draft Design Plan provided overall design guidelines and base sketches, as well as draft layouts for all exhibits, including text, maps, illustrations, and other graphics. This Final Design Plan builds on the Draft Design Plan and incorporates feedback from Jefferson County Parks and the Ho-Chunk Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO).

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Jefferson County Parks Department is to preserve natural resources for public use and conservation; to operate and maintain a parks system with resource-oriented recreation, trails, and special use parks; and to expand the parks system for environmental and land use benefits and the health and enjoyment of Jefferson County residents.

## PROJECT TEAM

	Name	Project Role
Jefferson County Parks	Kevin Wiesmann	Supervisor
	Mary Truman	Program Assistant
	Joni Crave	Volunteer
106 Group	Regine Kennedy	Project Manager
	Chris Evans	Designer
	Julie Davis	Planner/Writer
	Alyssa Rupp	Graphic Designer
	Christopher Sweet (Ho-Chunk/Ojibwe)	Illustrator

## TRIBAL CONSULTATION

106 Group continues to consult with Bill Quackenbush, the Ho-Chunk Nation's THPO, to ensure accurate and respectful interpretation of the Native American burial mounds in both parks. 106 Group also contracted Ho-Chunk/Ojibwe artist Christopher Sweet to create original illustrations for several exhibits. The project team conducted additional site visits with the THPO and the artist in early 2020.

## SITE PREPARATION & ACCESSIBILITY

At all wayside locations, site preparation should consider ADA compliant access, including approach to the wayside with compliant surface material and adequate clearance for other visitors to move around those stopped at the wayside.

### Garman Nature Preserve

In some locations, accessibility is extremely challenging or impossible to achieve. In those instances, Jefferson County Parks could consider different ways of providing a parallel experience, such as an app or other digital media, accessible PDFs available on the park website, and printed copies of the waysides available at select locations, such as the Waterloo Trailhead Facility for the Garman Nature Preserve waysides.

Each wayside location was assessed independently, but common concerns were steep slopes or uneven terrain leading up to the wayside. On the west side of the park, the trail will be rerouted to have switchbacks that allow for a more gradual slope that would help the higher elevations become more accessible for more visitors.

## PROJECT GOALS

Goals provide focus and measure progress toward a desired future. For this project, the project team discussed planning goals and experience goals.

### Planning Goals

Planning goals further the Parks Department’s Mission. Interpretation at these sites will help to...

1. Protect and preserve the Native American mounds.
2. Increase use of parks and trails.
3. Promote inspiration and rejuvenation.
4. Encourage people to get outside and be active.
5. Provide space to be in a different environment and experience calm and quiet.
6. See native ecosystems after rehabilitation.
7. Increase knowledge about site landscapes and history.

### Experience Goals

Experience goals focus on visitors’ experience of the park and are sometimes called “Think-Feel-Do” goals. After experiencing interpretation, visitors to Garman Nature Preserve or Indian Mounds County Park will...

1. Understand park resources, use park resources responsibly, and return home safely.
2. Have the experience that they are seeking and enjoy sharing that experience with friends and family.
3. Leave the park with greater humility and an improved stewardship ethic.
4. Easily navigate through the park.
5. Enjoy the park through a variety of accessible and sensory experiences.
6. Learn about nature and the outdoors, building their knowledge and skills.
7. Feel calmer.
8. Use all their senses to experience the park.
9. Feel a connection with the Mound Builder culture.
10. Understand the glacial features that define GNP and the broader landscape.

## AUDIENCE

The current and desired target audiences were identified by the Jefferson County Parks team during the on-site workshop on October 8, 2019.

### Current Audiences

Both parks attract a variety of audiences, including:

- Local people seeking a slow-paced, contemplative, outdoor nature experience (walkers, photographers, birders)
- Local families
- School groups
- Native American people visiting the mounds

In addition to the above, Garman Nature Preserve attracts:

- Local people engaging in vigorous outdoor activity (e.g., runners, skiers).

In addition to the above, Indian Mounds County Park attracts:

- Docents from Hoard Historical Museum with guided tour groups.

### Desired Target Audiences

Jefferson County Parks seeks to attract new audiences to both parks, specifically to:

- Increase the number of school groups.
- Increase the number of visitors from farther away places such as Madison, Waukesha, Milwaukee, and Chicago.
- Serve local senior citizens and people with disabilities.

# INTERPRETIVE FRAMEWORK

Interpretation seeks to connect visitors to a place or a resource. It is an experience more than a sign. A story more than conveying facts. Interpretation answers the questions: “So what?” and “Why should I care?” It can also be a call to action, provoking visitors to ask, “Now what do I do?” Effective interpretation forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in a resource and place.

## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

An interpretive theme is the key message of site interpretation. It may or may not appear in writing, exhibits, and programming, but all interpretive efforts should fall within the scope of the interpretive theme. A theme provides organizational structure and clarity for visitors when they visit a site or travel along a trail. After their experience, visitors should be able to summarize the main point of interpretation in one sentence; this is the interpretive theme.

A theme is different from a topic in that it expresses a complete idea or message. A topic is a broad general category, such as geology, forest restoration, or Native American culture. A theme tells visitors why a specific topic is important.

The interpretive theme should:

- Be stated as a short, simple, complete sentence
- Contain only one main idea, if possible
- Be specific
- Connect tangible resources to universally understood concepts

The interpretive themes for Garman Nature Preserve and Indian Mounds County Park were informed by collaborative discussions with the Jefferson County Parks team during on-site meetings in October 2019 and by feedback to the Trip Report.

*Garman Nature Preserve is a contemplative place to connect with nature, experience the glacial landscape, and learn about the Native American mounds and the people who built them.*

*Indian Mounds County Park is a place to learn about Native American effigy mounds, the people who built them, and the environment that supported Native communities here.*

## PRIORITIZED TOPICS

The Jefferson County Parks team prioritized the topics for interpretation during the on-site workshop on October 8, 2019. This prioritized list guides the text and graphic content shown in the exhibit worksheets.

Top priority

- Glacial features/geology
- Native American history: the mound builders & their descendants
- Native American mounds: present & future

Secondary priority

- Plants
- Animals
- Stewardship: past, present & future

## VOICE

We will use accessible, easily-understandable language to convey interpretive messages throughout the exhibits. Exhibit text will:

- provide accurate historical and scientific information
- cultivate a sense of connection with nature
- encourage respect and reverence for the treasures the park preserves
- inspire stewardship of natural and cultural resources

We will use the following to guide text writing:

- 6<sup>th</sup>- to 8<sup>th</sup>-grade reading level
- Short sentences

We will use “3-30-3” to gauge dwell time:

- 3 seconds to capture a visitor’s attention
- 30 seconds to read text and look at graphics
- up to 3 minutes to explore the exhibit in depth and share with others

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# EXHIBIT DESIGN

# WAYSIDE EXHIBITS

The approach to designing interpretive exhibits for Jefferson County Parks has been modeled after National Park Service (NPS) guidelines for developing outdoor wayside exhibits. 106 Group has applied NPS guidelines to the particular circumstances and needs of Garman Nature Preserve and Indian Mounds County Park.

## EXHIBIT TYPES

During the site visit, participants discussed different types of waysides and how they support the visitor experience. Participants looked for opportunities to provide consistent messaging, especially safety (i.e., rules and regulations) and stewardship (e.g., “Leave No Trace”) messaging at trailheads.

### Trailheads (Standard and Mini)

- Standard Trailheads (36x48) are used at the parking lot and beginning of the trail. These panels include a trail map, safety information, and brief interpretive information.
- Mini Trailheads (24x36) are used to supplement Standard Trailheads notably at trail intersections. These panels include a trail map, safety information, and a brief wildlife or natural history highlight.

### Interpretive Waysides

Low-profile waysides (36x24) share place-specific interpretation, showing and describing the view, landscape, or site history, especially when it is no longer visible. Interpretation links visitors intellectually and emotionally with the story and/or resource. Interpretive waysides answer the questions, “So what? Why should I care?” and “What is that thing in front of me?”

### Trailside Signs

Small trailside signs (6x12) may be used in combination with a vegetated barrier to encourage visitors to stay on the trail and off the mounds.

## WAYSIDE MATERIALS

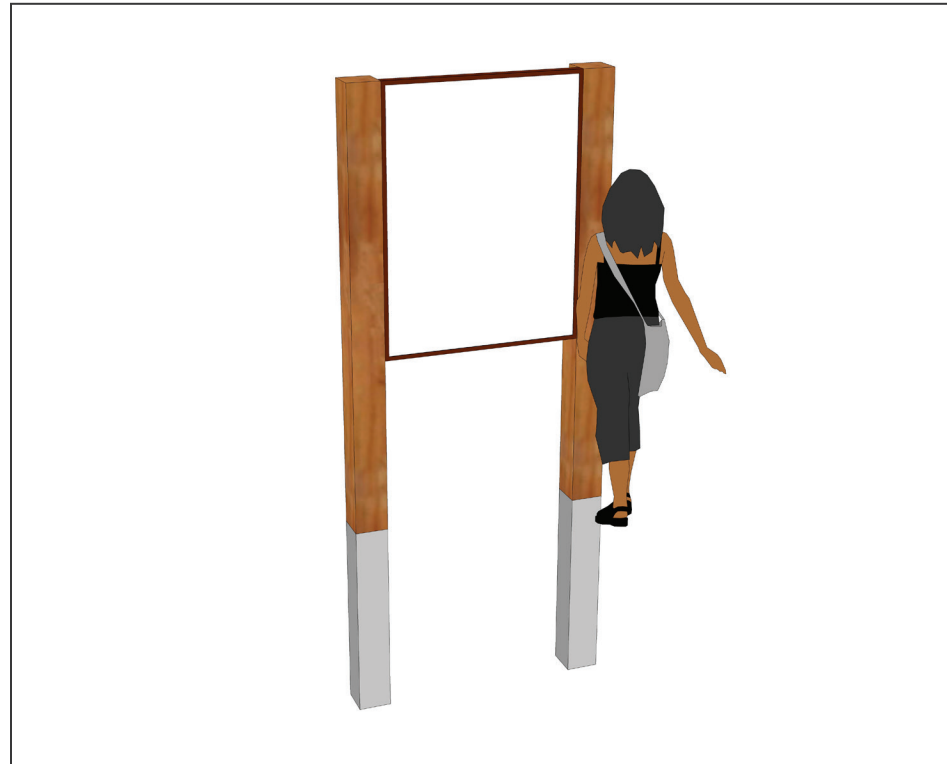
**PANELS:** High-pressure laminate (HPL) panels are made by layering high-resolution printed graphics and proprietary overlays with a core of phenolic resin-impregnated kraft paper. As the melamine resin flows, it permeates the digital print and all materials are consolidated into a single panel of thermoset plastic. HPL panels are graffiti resistant, easily cleanable, and include a 10-year warranty.

**BASES:** The base material will be a combination of square, wooden posts (to be provided by Jefferson County) with painted aluminum frames for uprights, painted aluminum frames and posts for uprights, and painted aluminum cantilever bases for low-profile interpretive waysides. The aluminum will be painted a brown color that is complementary to the shelter ivory and shelter green that are standard in Jefferson County Parks.

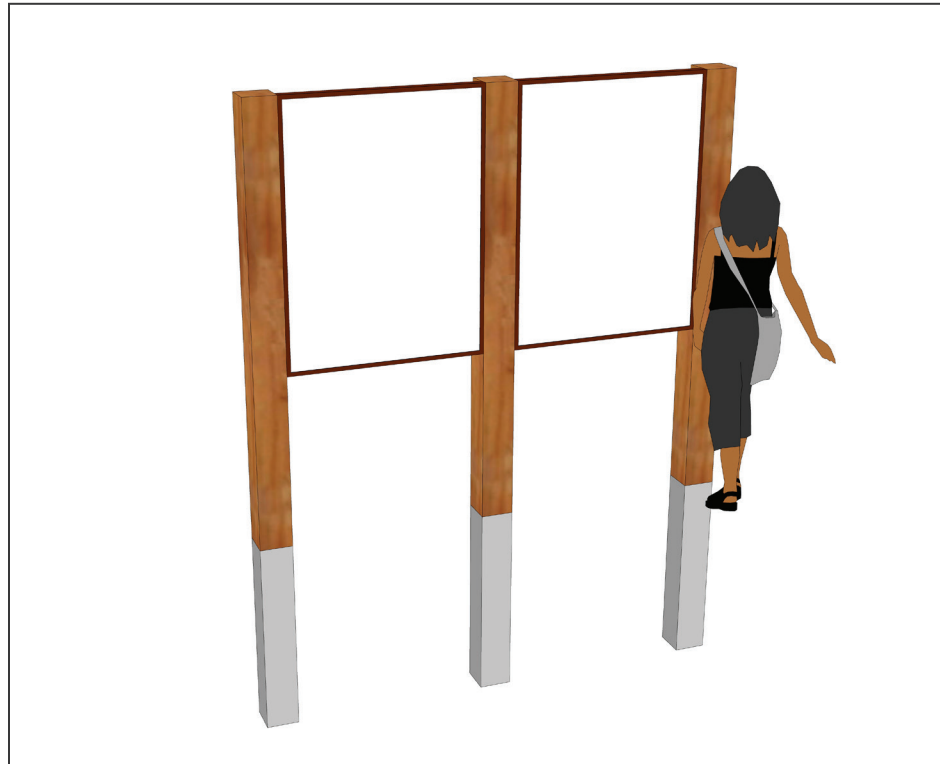
- Standard trailhead upright waysides (36" wide x 48" high) will be comprised of 6"x6" or 4"x6" wooden posts with aluminum frames painted brown.
- Mini trailhead upright waysides (24" wide x 36" high) will be comprised of 2"x3" painted aluminum posts, paired with aluminum frames painted brown.
- Low-profile waysides (36" wide x 24" high with 30° angle) will be comprised of aluminum cantilever posts with aluminum frames all painted brown.
- Trailside signs (6" wide x 12" high) will be comprised of an aluminum base painted brown.



## EXHIBIT FORMS



Standard Trailhead: Upright, 36" wide x 48" high panel, 6" x 6" wooden posts, in-ground mount



Standard Trailhead: Double-in-line



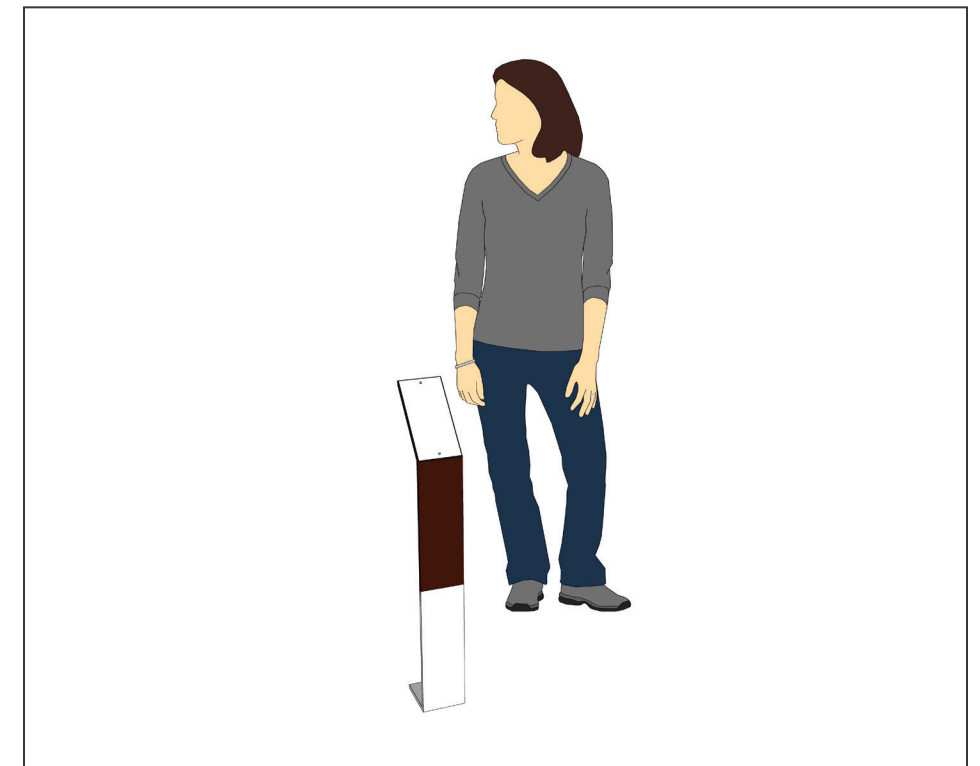
Standard Trailhead with acrylic mount for easily replaceable content



Mini Trailhead: Upright, 24" wide x 36" high panel, painted aluminum posts, in-ground mount



Interpretive Wayside: Low-profile, 36" wide x 24" high panel, painted aluminum posts, in-ground mount



Trailside Signs: Low-profile, 6" wide x 12" high panel, painted aluminum base, in-ground mount

# DESIGN GUIDELINES

In order to portray the rich human and geological history of both Garman Nature Preserve and Indian Mounds County Park, we are proposing these design principles. Overall we want to maintain a level of respect that evokes the respect the Ho-Chunk people have for their culture. Through color, type, and other graphic elements, we want to both accurately display historical and scientific information as well as inspire visitors to value the resources and treasures the parks provide, just as the Ho-Chunk Nation and their ancestors have acted as responsible stewards of their beloved homeland.

The design should be **VIBRANT** and **MODERN**, yet also **CONTEMPLATIVE**, **HARMONIOUS**, and **TRANQUIL**.

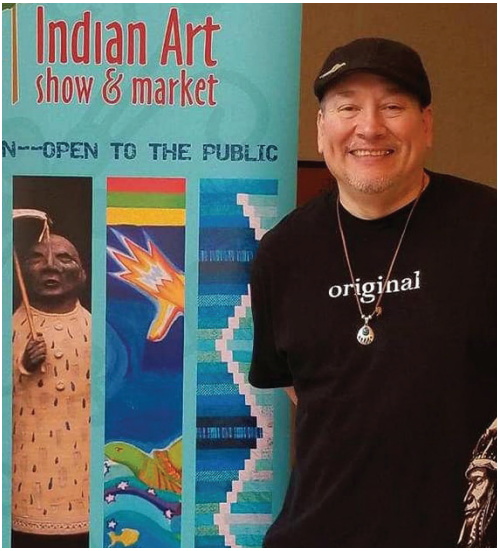
## INSPIRATION

Gathering visual inspiration helps to inform the look and feel of these panels and guide their technical elements. Imagery highlighting the landscapes of Jefferson County inspired us both by their presence and their calming effect. Graphic motifs representing movement, balance, and harmony create visual interest and connect visitors to the ancestors who inhabit this place.



## ILLUSTRATION STYLE

Chris Sweet is a Ho-Chunk/Ojibwe artist contributing his work, insights, and talents to this project as part of the 106 Group team. Chris's illustration style supports the respectful and rich messages Garman Nature Preserve and Indian Mounds County Park look to portray, with vibrant pops of color and a mix of dynamic brush strokes. His portrayal of Wisconsin's Ho-Chunk ancestors makes his work unique and well suited for the stories we tell at these special places.





## COLOR PALETTE

Colors chosen for these panels reflect the parks' natural landscapes. The palette is rich and warm but not overly bright.

# Source Serif Pro

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

0123456789 ?@#\$%^&\*(){}[]=+/,."':;

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

## TYPOGRAPHY

Source Serif Pro conveys solidity and connects to Jefferson County's brand identity with stylized serifs and upright construction of the letterforms. In most instances it is used in headings, titles, and some labels.

Corbel complements Source Serif Pro and provides visual variety. It also has an upright construction and provides easily legible body text and captions.

## VISUAL ACCENTS

Throughout the panels, visitors will notice use of organic swoops and curves along with solid blocks of color. These visual accents create cohesion across exhibits and evoke the dynamic geological and cultural influences that have shaped this place over time.

# Corbel

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

0123456789 ?@#\$%^&\*(){}[]=+/,."':;

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

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# SITE MAPS


# Garman Nature Preserve and Indian Mounds County Park Concept Plan

Jefferson County, Wisconsin

 Park Boundary

 Trail

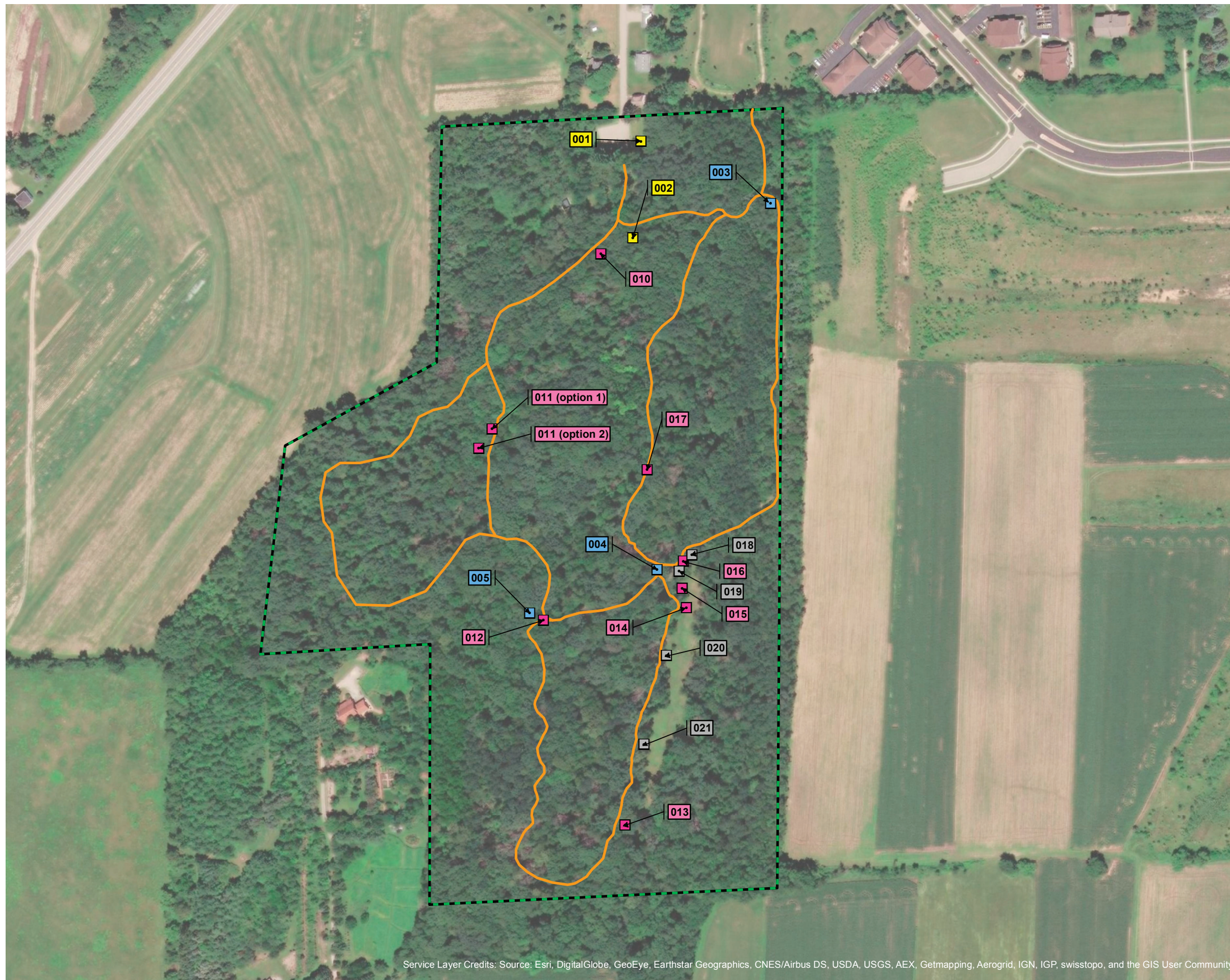
### Exhibit Type

 Orientation & Interpretation

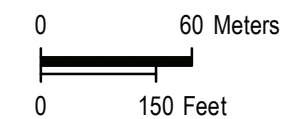
 Orientation

 Interpretation

 Trail Delineation



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



1:3,000



Garman Nature Preserve:  
Proposed Exhibits


Figure 1


**Garman Nature Preserve and  
Indian Mounds County Park  
Concept Plan**  
*Jefferson County, Wisconsin*

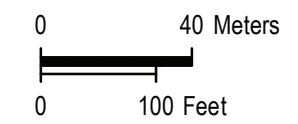
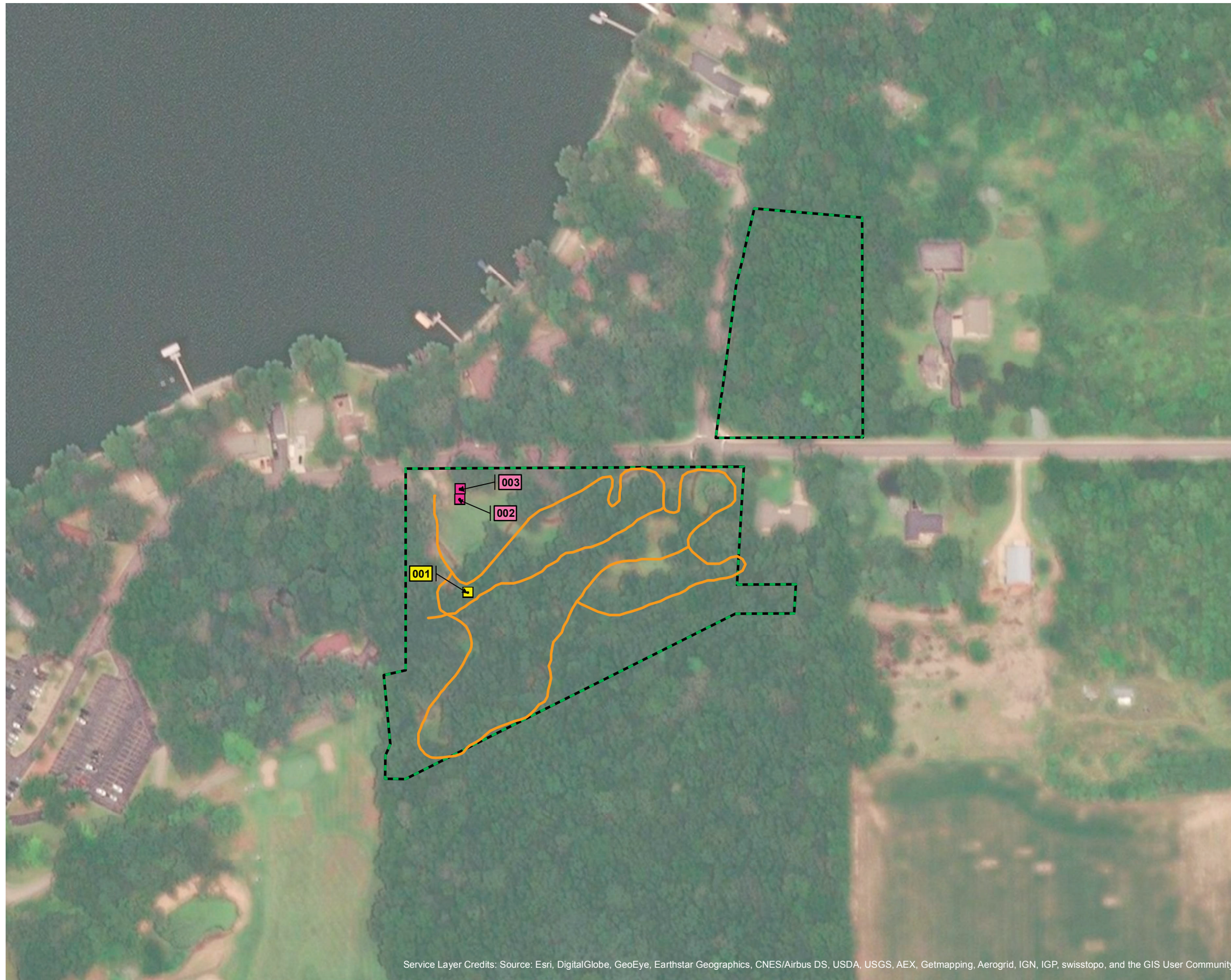
 Park Boundary

 Trail

**Exhibit Type**

 Orientation & Interpretation

 Interpretation



1:2,000



Indian Mounds County Park:  
Proposed Exhibits

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

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# EXHIBITS

SUBJECT: Welcome to Garman Nature Preserve

PURPOSE: To let people know where they are and convey park rules and regulations. To honor the Garman gift and introduce the park's special features.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Upright
- **SIZE:** 36" x 48"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** 6"x 6" or 4"x 6" wooden posts w/ painted aluminum frames
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** parking lot
- **ORIENTATION:** East
- **LAT:** 43°10'33.49"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'13.79"W





# The Gift of Nature

Mrs. Theo Garman donated this preserve to the Waterloo community in recognition of her late husband, Dr. John S. Garman. Her gift provides a place to appreciate nature in quiet contemplation. Both Dr. and Mrs. Garman were deeply committed to the citizens of Waterloo. We are grateful for their vision and generosity.



## Park Rules

**No bicycles in the park**

**No campfires outside designated grills or campfire rings**

**No overnight camping**

**No hunting or fireworks allowed in the park**

- All vehicles must remain on designated roads and parking areas.
- Hikers must remain on designated trails.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6' at all times. No exceptions!
- Dog waste must be picked up and placed in designated receptacles.



002A

SUBJECT: Trailhead/Rules and Regulations

PURPOSE: To show the GNP trail system, provide trail information, and convey park rules & regulations.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A

002B

SUBJECT: Ho-Chunk Nation/Stewardship

PURPOSE: To introduce the Ho-Chunk Nation's connection to this site, and encourage respectful stewardship of park resources.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Double-in-line w/ roof
- **SIZE:** 36" x 48"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** 6"x 6" or 4"x 6" wooden posts w/ painted aluminum frames
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Trails entrance
- **ORIENTATION:** South
- **LAT:** 43°10'31.11"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'13.50"W



# Welcome to the Dr. J.S. Garman Nature Preserve

This is a special place. Feel the land rise as you climb the hill made by a glacier during the last ice age. See the burial mounds built here 1,000 years ago. Look for yellow giant hyssop blooming from June to September. Enjoy the peaceful sounds of nature.



## Park Rules

- No bicycles in the park**
- No campfires outside designated grills or campfire rings**
- No overnight camping**
- No hunting or fireworks allowed in the park**
- All vehicles must remain on designated roads and parking areas.
- Hikers must remain on designated trails.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6' at all times. No exceptions!
- Dog waste must be picked up and placed in designated receptacles.





 **Take Care of This Special Place**

- Stay on the trail.
- Do not disturb or walk on the mounds.
- Do not leave litter in the park.
- Speak quietly out of respect for the ancestors.
- We are all related here: people, plants, animals, birds, water, earth, and sky.

# Stewards of the Earth

Garman Nature Preserve contains ancient Native American burial mounds. Ancestors of the Ho-Chunk People built the mounds over 1,000 years ago. The Ho-Chunk are the People of the Big Voice, the original people of this region. They regard these burial sites as sacred places. We all can walk here with respect and reverence.



SUBJECT: Mini-trailhead

PURPOSE: To show the GNP trail system with “You Are Here” marker, convey trail rules & regulations, and highlight an animal that visitors might encounter in the park (e.g. fox, owl, or turkey).

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Upright
- **SIZE:** 24" x 36"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Intersection of WRT access trail and GNP Pine Loop trail
- **ORIENTATION:** Southeast
- **LAT:** 43°10'32.32"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'9.21"W



# Experience the Park

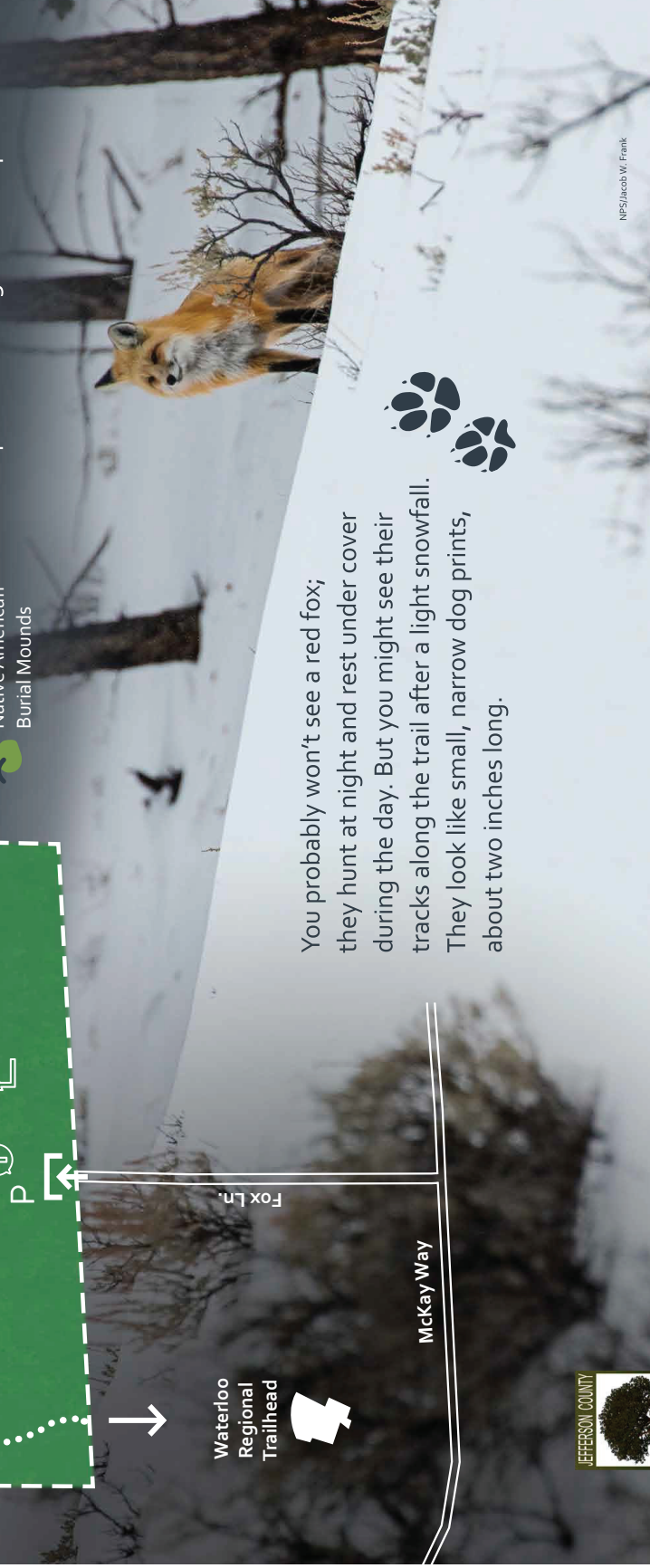
Hike up the Pine Loop to the Mounds Loop to see the Native American mounds. Be alert for signs of forest animals and birds along the way.



## Park Rules

- No bicycles in the park**
- No campfires outside designated grills or campfire rings**
- No overnight camping**
- No hunting or fireworks allowed in the park**
- All vehicles must remain on designated roads and parking areas.
- Hikers must remain on designated trails.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6' at all times. No exceptions!
- Dog waste must be picked up and placed in designated receptacles.

You probably won't see a red fox; they hunt at night and rest under cover during the day. But you might see their tracks along the trail after a light snowfall. They look like small, narrow dog prints, about two inches long.



NPS/Jacob W. Frank



SUBJECT: Mini-trailhead

PURPOSE: To show the GNP trail system with “You Are Here” marker, convey trail rules and regulations, and highlight Yellow Giant Hyssop.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Upright
- **SIZE:** 24" x 36"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Intersection of Pine Loop, Ridge Loop & Mounds Loop
- **ORIENTATION:** Southwest
- **LAT:** 43°10'22.75"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'12.81"W



# Experience the Park

Take the Ridge Loop to reach the highest spot in the preserve. Look down to find native plants like yellow giant hyssop. Then enjoy the view from the top.



## Park Rules

- No bicycles in the park**
- No campfires outside designated grills or campfire rings**
- No overnight camping**
- No hunting or fireworks allowed in the park**
- All vehicles must remain on designated roads and parking areas.
- Hikers must remain on designated trails.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6' at all times. No exceptions!
- Dog waste must be picked up and placed in designated receptacles.

**Yellow giant hyssop** prefers growing in an open oak savanna. Its presence tells us what kind of native forest used to be here. Look for plants three to five feet tall with spikes of white to yellow flowers. They bloom from July to September.





SUBJECT: Mini-trailhead

PURPOSE: To show the GNP trail system with “You Are Here” marker, convey trail rules and regulations, and highlight Pileated Woodpecker.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Upright
- **SIZE:** 24" x 36"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Western intersection of Ridge Loop & Mounds Loop
- **ORIENTATION:** West
- **LAT:** 43°10'21.69"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'17.21"W



# Experience the Park

Take the Mounds Loop to discover Native American history. Follow the Ridge Loop to explore glacial geology. Experience the sights and sounds of nature all around you.



## Park Rules

- No bicycles in the park**
- No campfires outside designated grills or campfire rings**
- No overnight camping**
- No hunting or fireworks allowed in the park**
- All vehicles must remain on designated roads and parking areas.
- Hikers must remain on designated trails.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6' at all times. No exceptions!
- Dog waste must be picked up and placed in designated receptacles.

Pileated woodpeckers use their beaks to drill holes in dead trees and downed logs, searching for carpenter ants to eat. Look for the bird's red crest and listen for the loud drumming sound it makes.



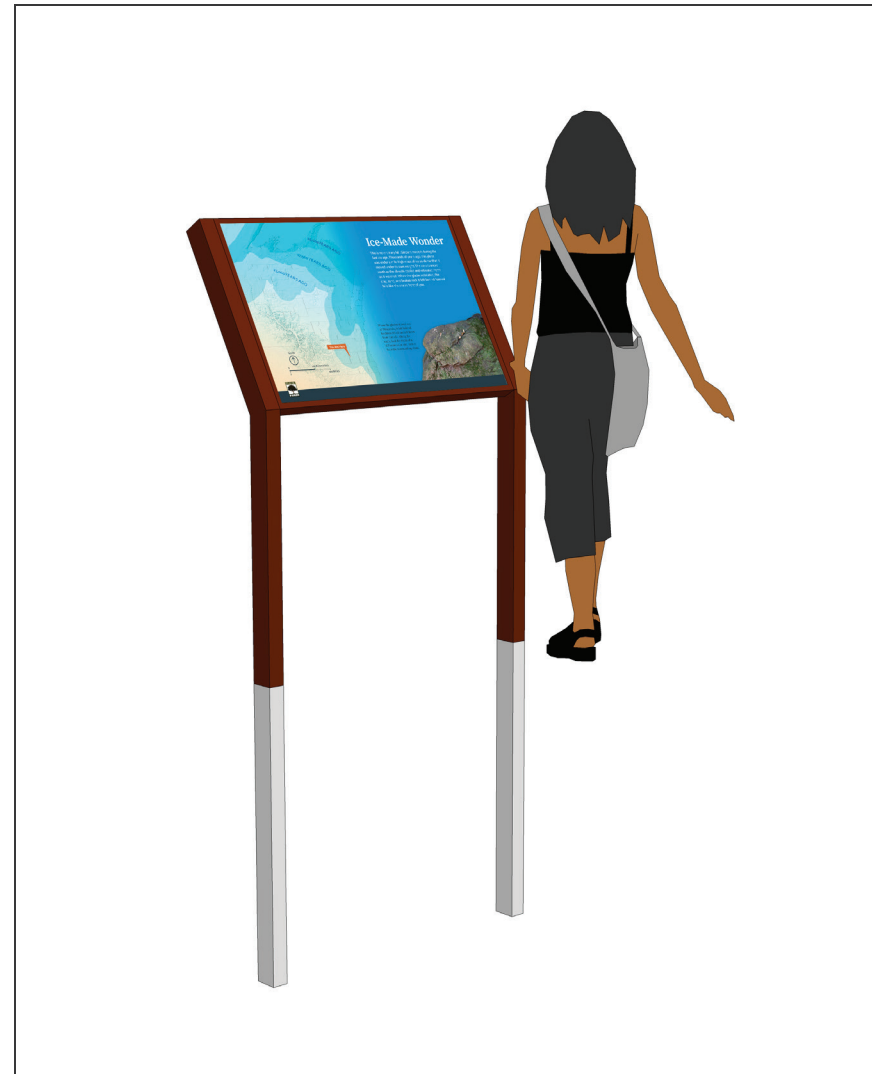
Jerry McFarland

SUBJECT: Glacial Features: GNP Glaciology

PURPOSE: To explain Wisconsin's glacial history and summarize how glacial movement shaped the landscape in the preserve.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



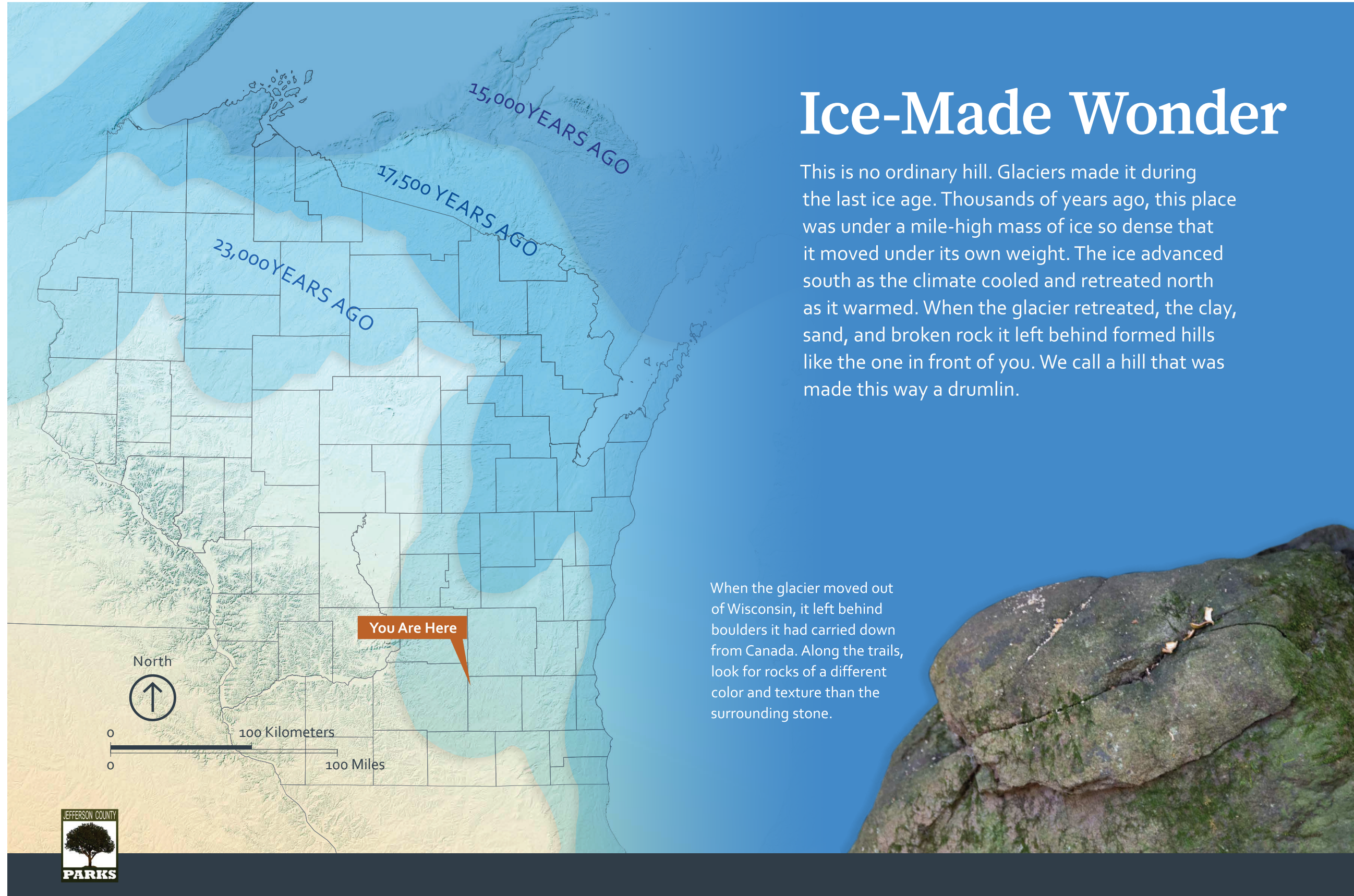
**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Low profile
- **SIZE:** 36" x 24"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Northern end of Ridge Loop trail, just west of main trailhead. At bottom of hill looking up.
- **ORIENTATION:** Southeast
- **LAT:** 43°10'30.74"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'15.84"W





# Ice-Made Wonder

This is no ordinary hill. Glaciers made it during the last ice age. Thousands of years ago, this place was under a mile-high mass of ice so dense that it moved under its own weight. The ice advanced south as the climate cooled and retreated north as it warmed. When the glacier retreated, the clay, sand, and broken rock it left behind formed hills like the one in front of you. We call a hill that was made this way a drumlin.

When the glacier moved out of Wisconsin, it left behind boulders it had carried down from Canada. Along the trails, look for rocks of a different color and texture than the surrounding stone.

SUBJECT: Glacial Features: Boulder Train

PURPOSE: To describe the glacial features evident at GNP in their regional context, specifically the boulder train.

**Notes & Questions:**

- Please confirm which location option should be used for this exhibit

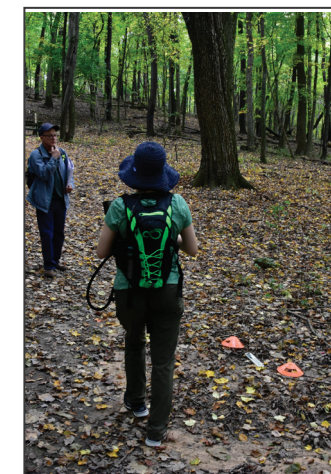


**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Low profile
- **SIZE:** 36" x 24"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **OPTION 1:** Mid-slope, western side Ridge Loop trail
- **OPTION 2:** Higher mid-slope, western side Ridge Loop trail
- **ORIENTATION:** Northwest
- **LAT:** 43°10'26.35"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'18.43"W



# Slow-Moving Train

Some of these rocks aren't from around here. A glacier dragged them down from Canada when it advanced into this area 24,000 years ago. When the ice melted, the glacier retreated, leaving some of those traveling stones behind. A "train" of transplanted glacial boulders still spreads across southeastern Wisconsin.

**Can you see and feel the difference?**

The rock that's native to this area is made of limestone and sandstone. The stones the glacier carried south from Canada are made of quartzite. Compare the rocks gathered here. Can you see and feel the difference?

**Limestone** is light brown to gray with a rough texture. It contains fragments of shell fossils.

**Quartzite** is pink to light gray in color. It sometimes looks shiny after it's worn by weather.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS

SUBJECT: Trees and Restoration

PURPOSE: To describe the native plant community and the work undertaken to restore a healthy ecosystem.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Low profile
- **SIZE:** 36" x 24"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

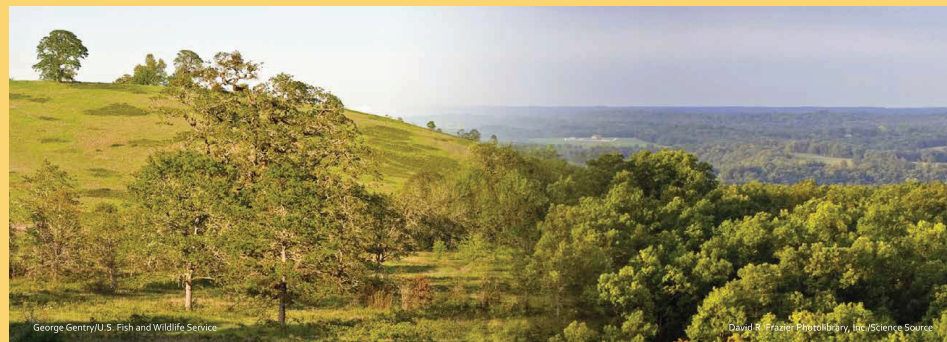
- **DESCRIPTION:** Western intersection of Ridge Loop and Mounds Loop
- **ORIENTATION:** Southeast
- **LAT:** 43°10'21.51"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'16.74"W



# Room to Grow

You're looking at forestry work in progress. Jefferson County is bringing the park closer to the oak savanna that existed here before the 1840s. Park staff re-seed oak and hickory trees and remove non-native and invasive plants. They use controlled burning to thin the woods and restore a more open canopy. This lets in the direct sunlight that acorns need to grow into healthy oak trees. Their work helps a diverse native plant community thrive here again.

Pre-1850 (Oak Savanna)



Present Day (Hardwood Forest)

After the 1840s, increased settlement, intensive agriculture, and fire suppression transformed the landscape. A dense forest replaced the oak savanna. Invasive plants moved in. Now a healthier plant ecosystem is returning.





SUBJECT: GNP Mounds: Significance

PURPOSE: To convey the significance of this site in the context of mound destruction in the county/state.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



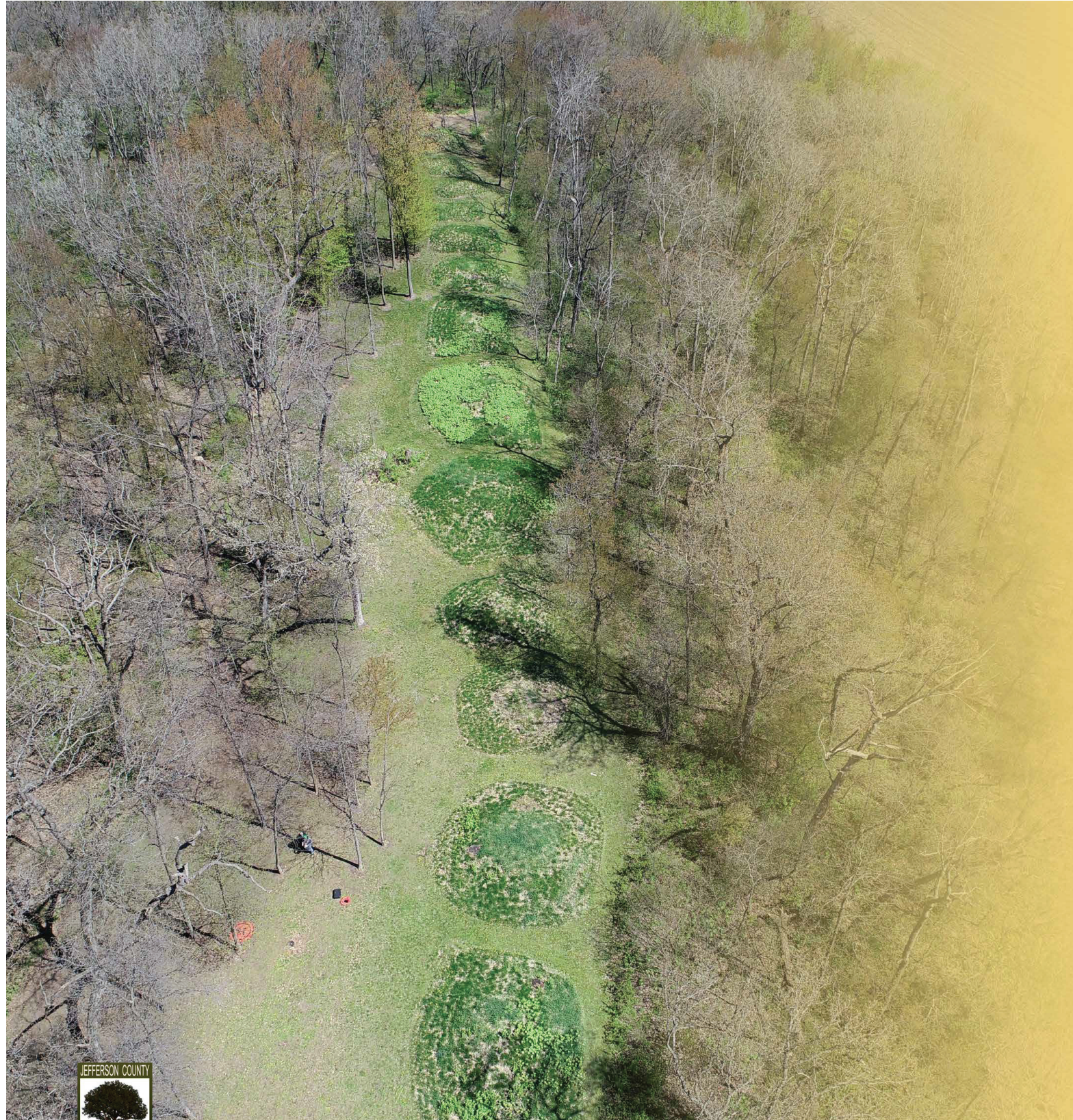
**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Low profile
- **SIZE:** 36" x 24"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

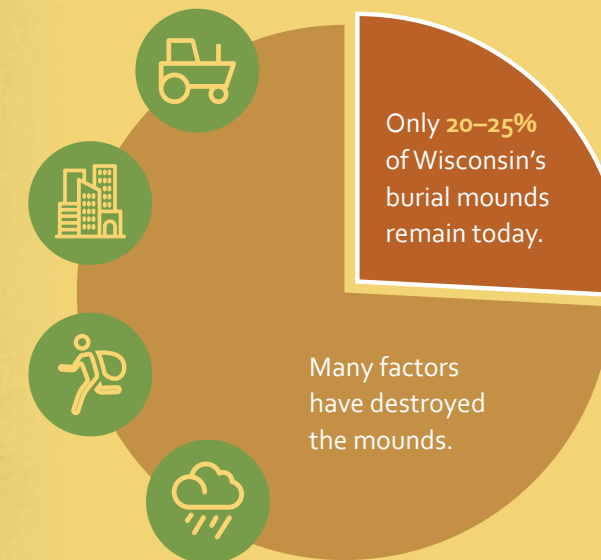
- **DESCRIPTION:** South end of mounds area, along the trail, facing the mounds (placement of 013-016 could be swapped)
- **ORIENTATION:** Northeast
- **LAT:** 43°10'16.28"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'14.35"W





# Sacred Site

Twenty-two Native American burial mounds stretch in a line along the top of the ridge in front of you. Built at this high elevation, the structures have lasted for centuries. The mounds honored the people's ancestors and preserved their history. They help us remember the families who lived here long ago.



Once there were 15,000 to 20,000 Native American burial mounds in present-day Wisconsin. Farming, urban development, weather, and looting destroyed most of them. Looters stole the contents of these mounds decades ago.

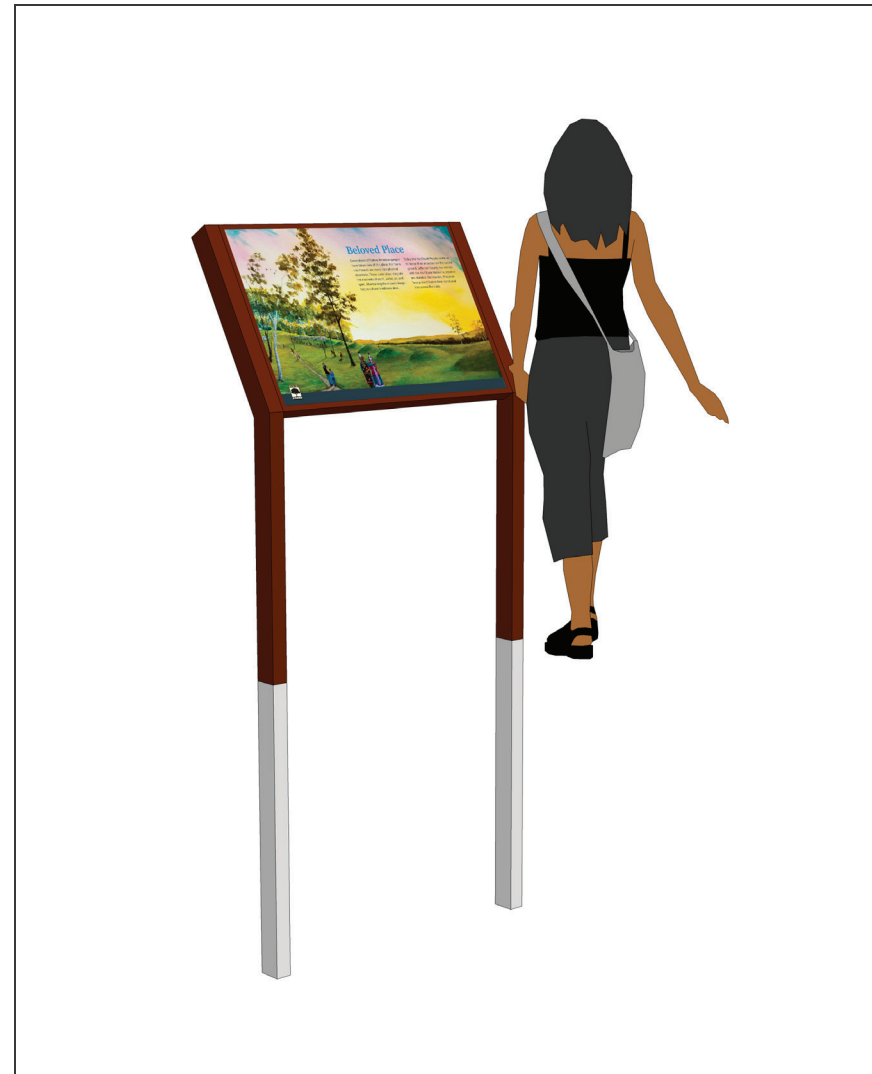


SUBJECT: GNP Mounds: Caretaking

PURPOSE: To reveal the multi-generational, cross-cultural caretaking that has preserved the mounds.

**Notes & Questions:**

- Needs Ho-Chunk consultation & approval



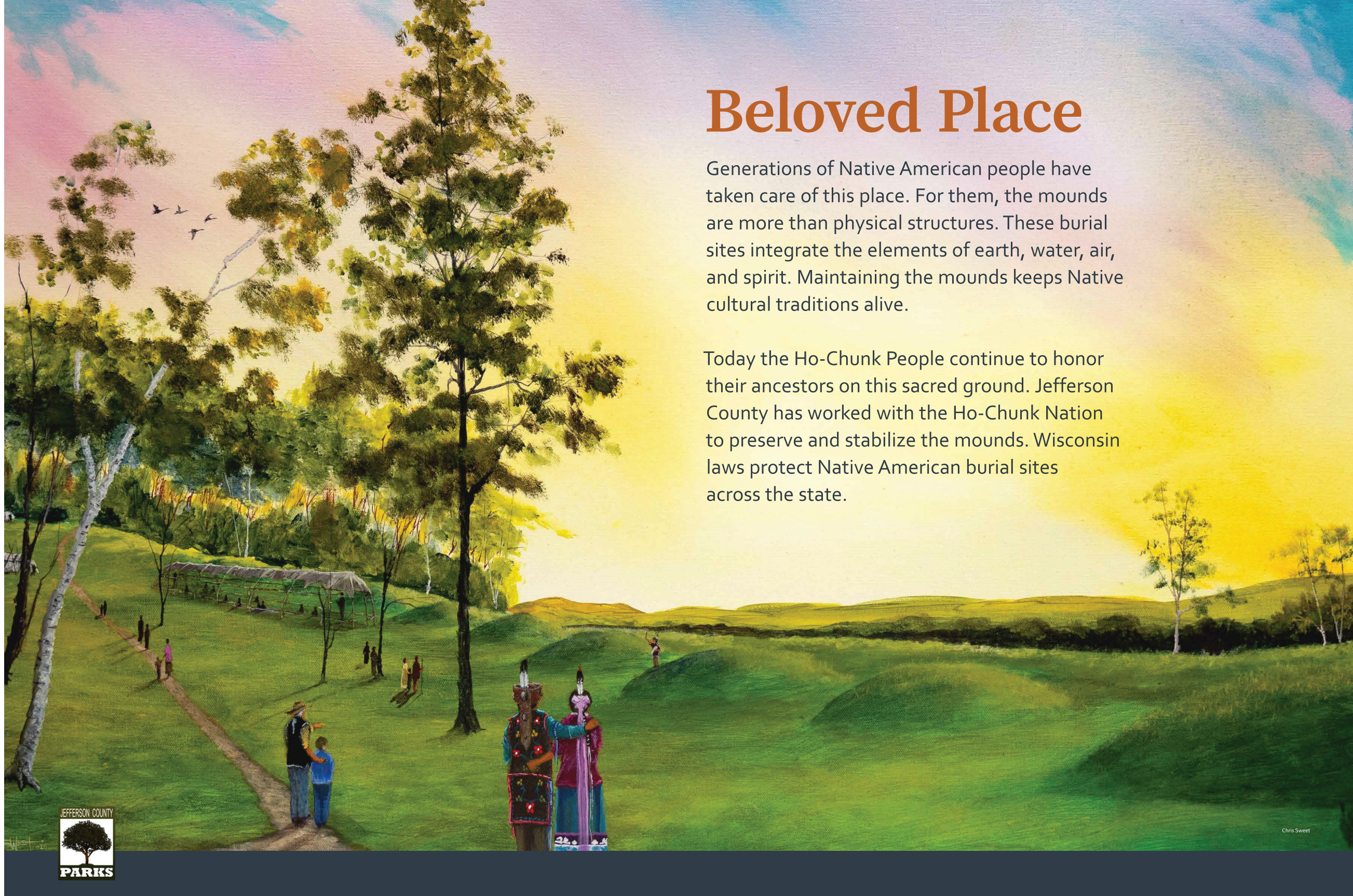
**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Low profile
- **SIZE:** 36" x 24"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Middle of mounds area, along the trail, facing the mounds (placement of 013-016 could be swapped)
- **ORIENTATION:** East/Southeast
- **LAT:** 43°10'21.78"N
- **LONG:** -89° 0'12.42"W





# Beloved Place

Generations of Native American people have taken care of this place. For them, the mounds are more than physical structures. These burial sites integrate the elements of earth, water, air, and spirit. Maintaining the mounds keeps Native cultural traditions alive.

Today the Ho-Chunk People continue to honor their ancestors on this sacred ground. Jefferson County has worked with the Ho-Chunk Nation to preserve and stabilize the mounds. Wisconsin laws protect Native American burial sites across the state.



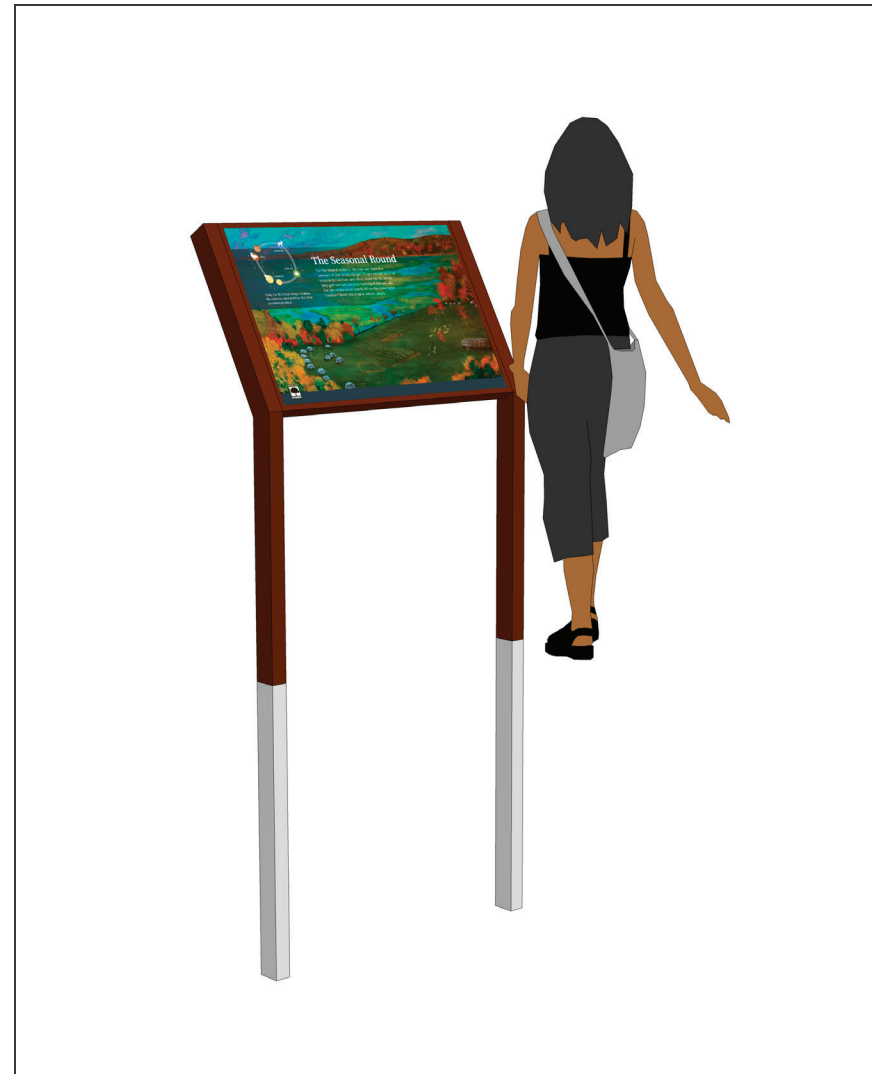
Chris Sweet

SUBJECT: GNP Mounds: The Seasonal Round

PURPOSE: To explain how these mounds fit into the cultural geography of the mound-builders in this area.

**Notes & Questions:**

- Needs Ho-Chunk consultation & approval



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Low profile
- **SIZE:** 36" x 24"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Middle-north of mounds area, along the trail, facing the mounds (placement of 013-016 could be swapped)
- **ORIENTATION:** East/Southeast
- **LAT:** 43°10'22.27"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'11.95"W





# The Seasonal Round

For the mound builders, this was one place in a network of connected villages. People moved with the seasons to find food and other resources. In the fall, they gathered at Lake Koshkonong to harvest wild rice and renew social bonds. When the snow came, families moved into smaller winter camps.

Today the Ho-Chunk People continue the same seasonal activities that their ancestors practiced.



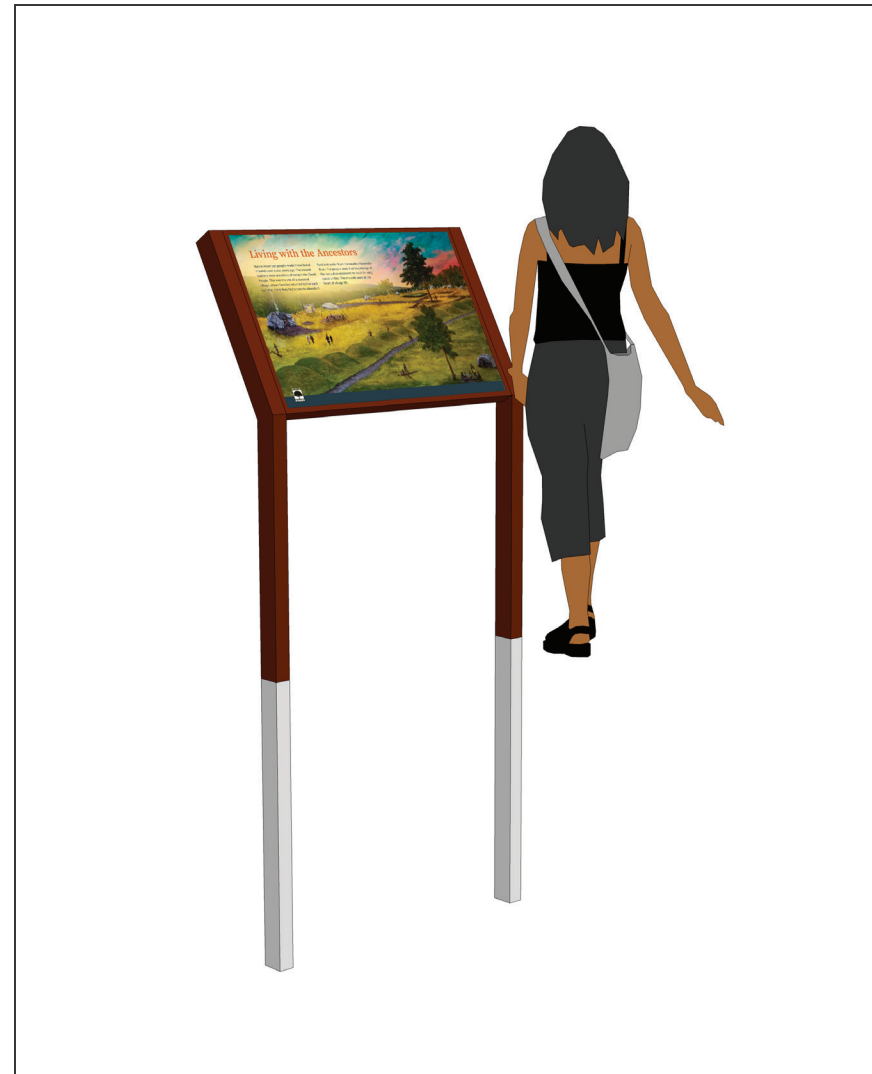
Chris Sweet

SUBJECT: GNP Mounds: The Mound Builders

PURPOSE: To describe the life of the people who created these mounds and convey what the mounds meant to them.

**Notes & Questions:**

- Needs Ho-Chunk consultation & approval



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Low profile
- **SIZE:** 36" x 24"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

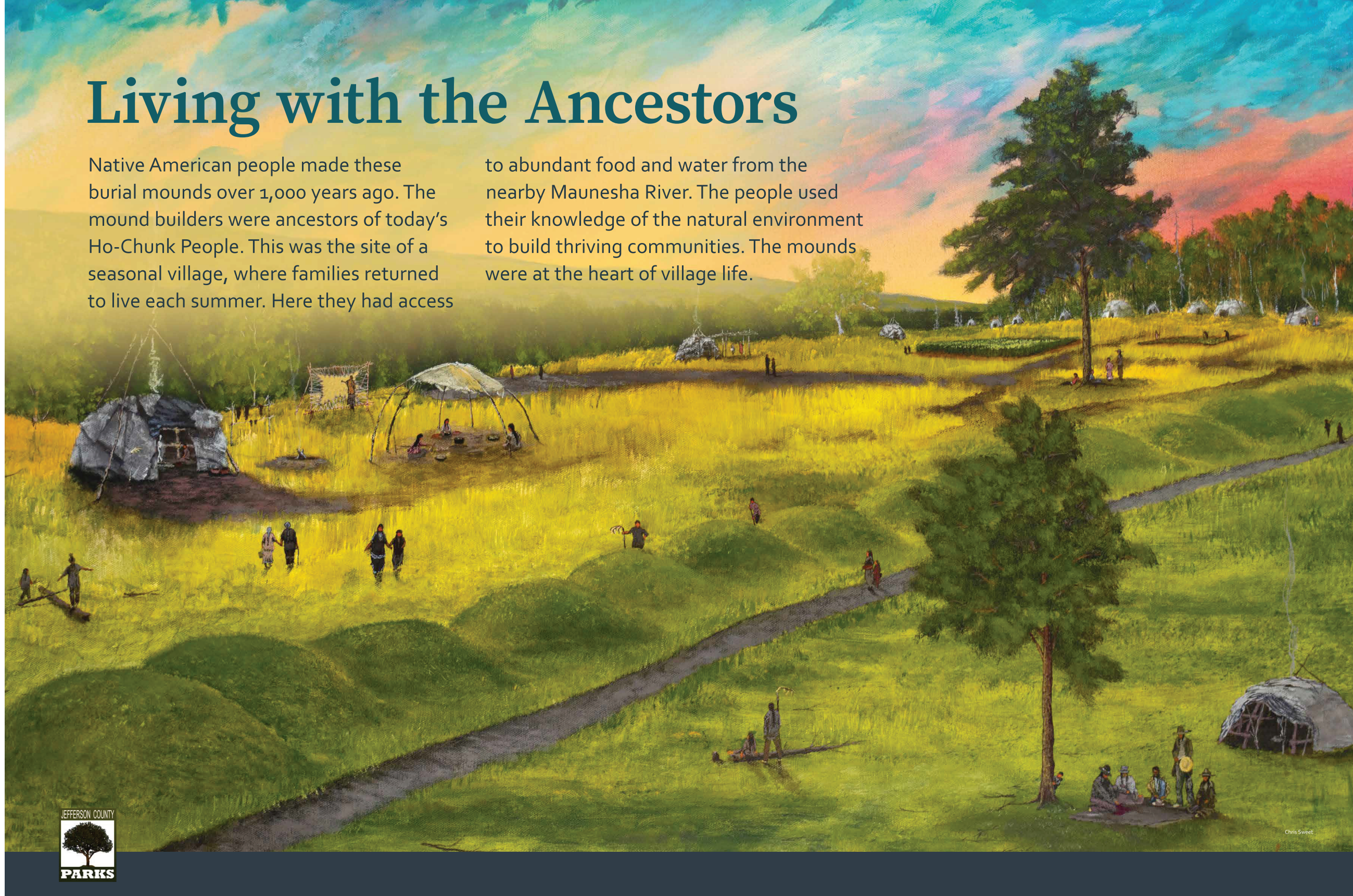
- **DESCRIPTION:** North end of mounds area, along the trail, facing the mounds (placement of 013-016 could be swapped)
- **ORIENTATION:** Southeast
- **LAT:** 43°10'23.08"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'12.13"W



# Living with the Ancestors

Native American people made these burial mounds over 1,000 years ago. The mound builders were ancestors of today's Ho-Chunk People. This was the site of a seasonal village, where families returned to live each summer. Here they had access

to abundant food and water from the nearby Maunasha River. The people used their knowledge of the natural environment to build thriving communities. The mounds were at the heart of village life.



Chris Sweet



SUBJECT: Glacial Features: County Glaciology

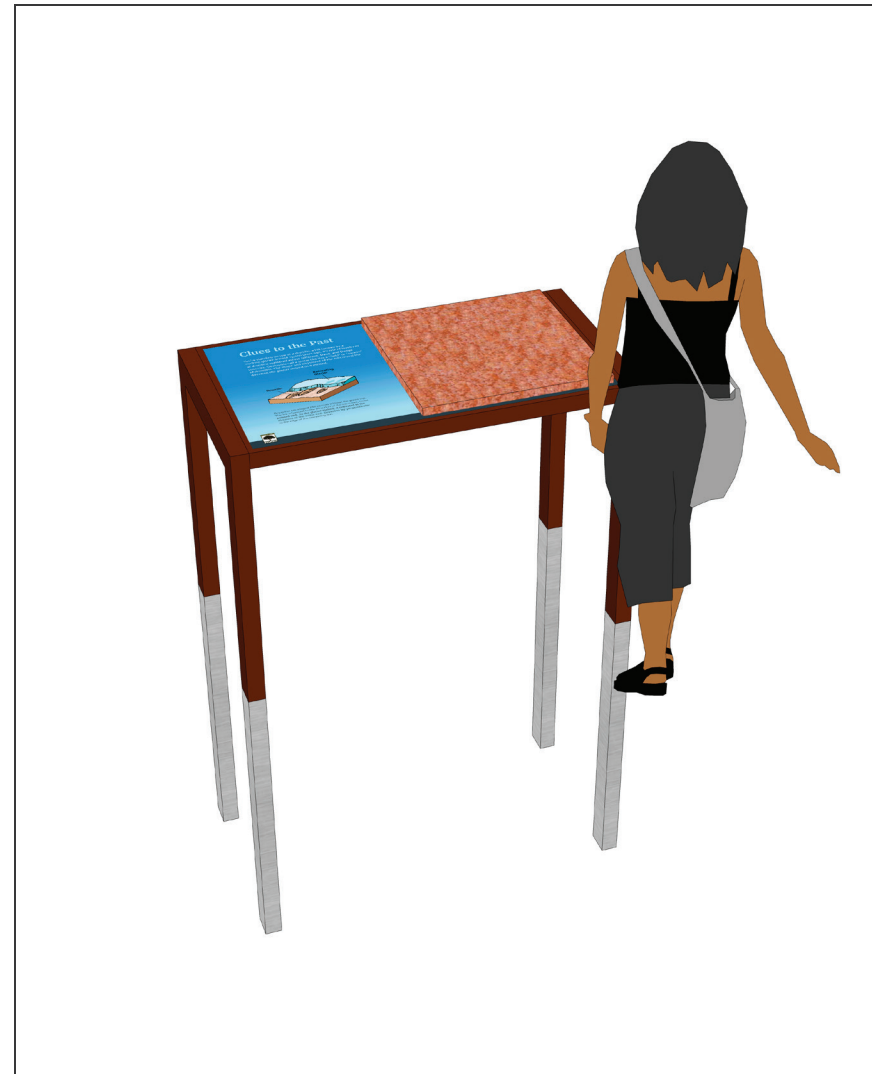
PURPOSE: To explain the GNP drumlin within the context of the regional glacial landscape, specifically the drumlin field in Jefferson and neighboring counties.

**Tactile Purpose:**

To convey that there are many hills of glacial sediment on the landscape in Jefferson County, and demonstrate that the hills' alignment reveals the direction in which the glacier retreated.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Four-legged low-profile w/ 20" x 22" x 1" bronze tactile
- **SIZE:** 42" x 24" low profile w/ 20" x 22" bronze tactile
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

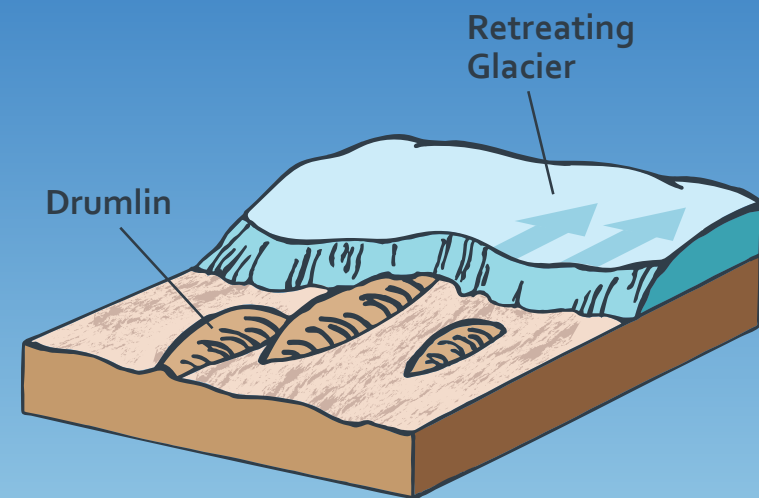
**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Midway up trail leg shared by Pine Loop & Ridge Loop; just north of preserve's highest point
- **ORIENTATION:** North
- **LAT:** 43°10'25.27"N
- **LONG:** - 89° 0'13.10"W



# Clues to the Past

You're standing on top of a drumlin, a hill formed by a melting glacier around 19,000 years ago. It's one of hundreds of drumlins scattered across Jefferson, Dane, and Dodge counties. Geologists call a group like this a "field" or "swarm" of drumlins. The shape and alignment of the hills reveal the direction the glacier moved as it melted.



Drumlins are shaped like carrots without the green top. The ice advanced in the direction of the narrower, more pointed end. As the glacier melted, it retreated in the direction of the wider end. Drumlins lay perpendicular to the edge of the retreating ice.



SUBJECT: Trail delineation

PURPOSE: To identify the trail and encourage visitors to stay on the trail and off the mounds.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Trailside
- **SIZE:** 6" x 12"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Mounds area, along the trail adjacent to the mounds
- **ORIENTATION:** East/Southeast
- **LAT:** multiple
- **LONG:** multiple



**Protect this  
burial site.**



James Wheeler/Unsplash



**Please stay on  
the trail and off  
the mounds.**

Speak softly to respect the ancestors.



\* Actual size

# IMP-001

001A

SUBJECT: Orientation/Stewardship

PURPOSE: To let visitors know where they are and convey stewardship messaging through the land donation.

**Notes & Questions:**

- N/A

001B

SUBJECT: IMP Mounds: Significance

PURPOSE: To explain what these mounds are and convey the significance of this site in the context of mound destruction.

**Notes & Questions:**

- Please confirm if the image on IMP-001B should be used. If not, consider the image on page 3 or provide a high resolution alternate.



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Double-in-line
- **SIZE:** 36" x 48"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** 6"x 6" or 4"x 6" wooden posts w/ painted aluminum frames
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Beginning of the trail loop
- **ORIENTATION:** South/Southeast
- **LAT:** 42°52'28.82"N
- **LONG:** - 88°54'32.12"W



# Welcome to Indian Mounds County Park

- ..... Interpretive Trail
- Historic Trail
- - Park Boundary
- == Road
- P Parking
- ⌘ Bridge
- Mounds

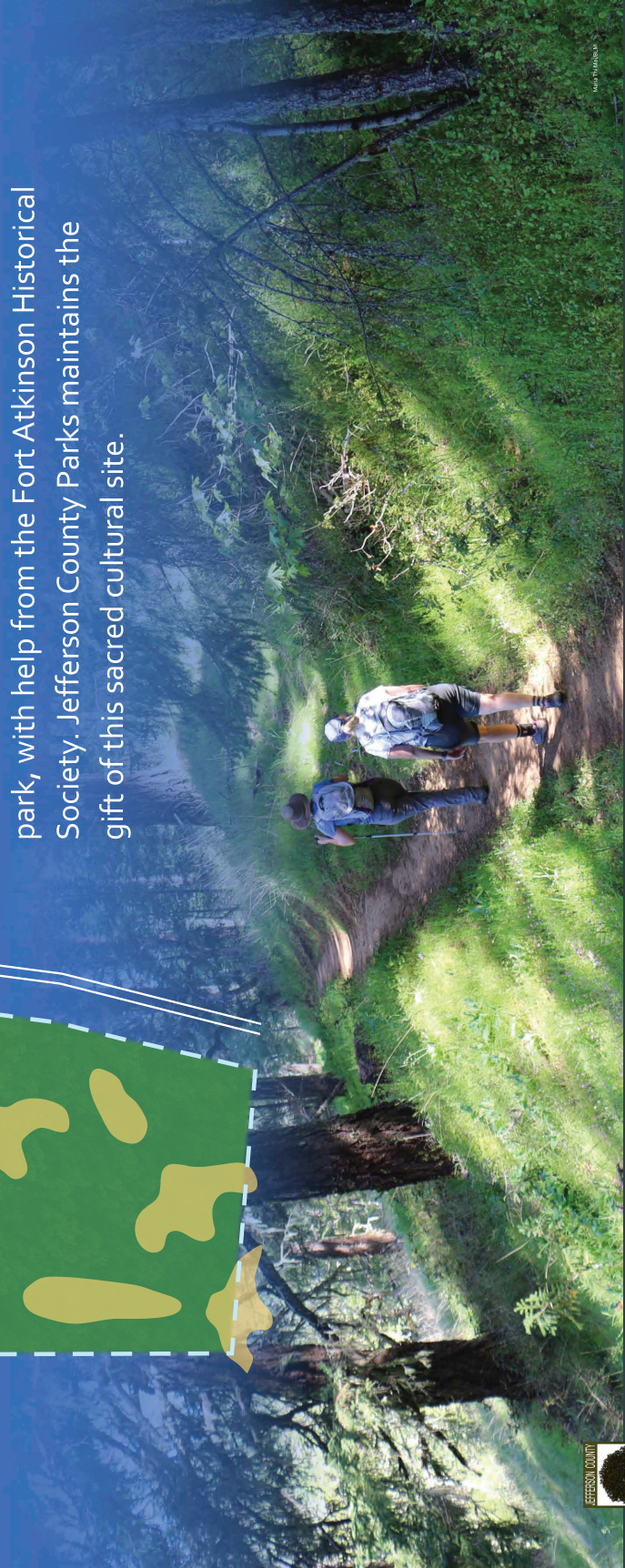


Koshkonong Mounds Rd.



Vinne Ha Ha Rd.

This park preserves a burial site of 19 Native American mounds and part of an ancient walking trail. Local citizens, Hugh Highsmith, and the Gramley family donated the land to create the park, with help from the Fort Atkinson Historical Society. Jefferson County Parks maintains the gift of this sacred cultural site.



Only 20-25% of Wisconsin's burial mounds remain today.

Many factors have destroyed the mounds.

Once there were 15,000 to 20,000 Native American burial mounds in present-day Wisconsin. Farming, urban development, weather, and looting destroyed most of them. Looters stole the contents of these mounds decades ago.

## Stories Made of Earth

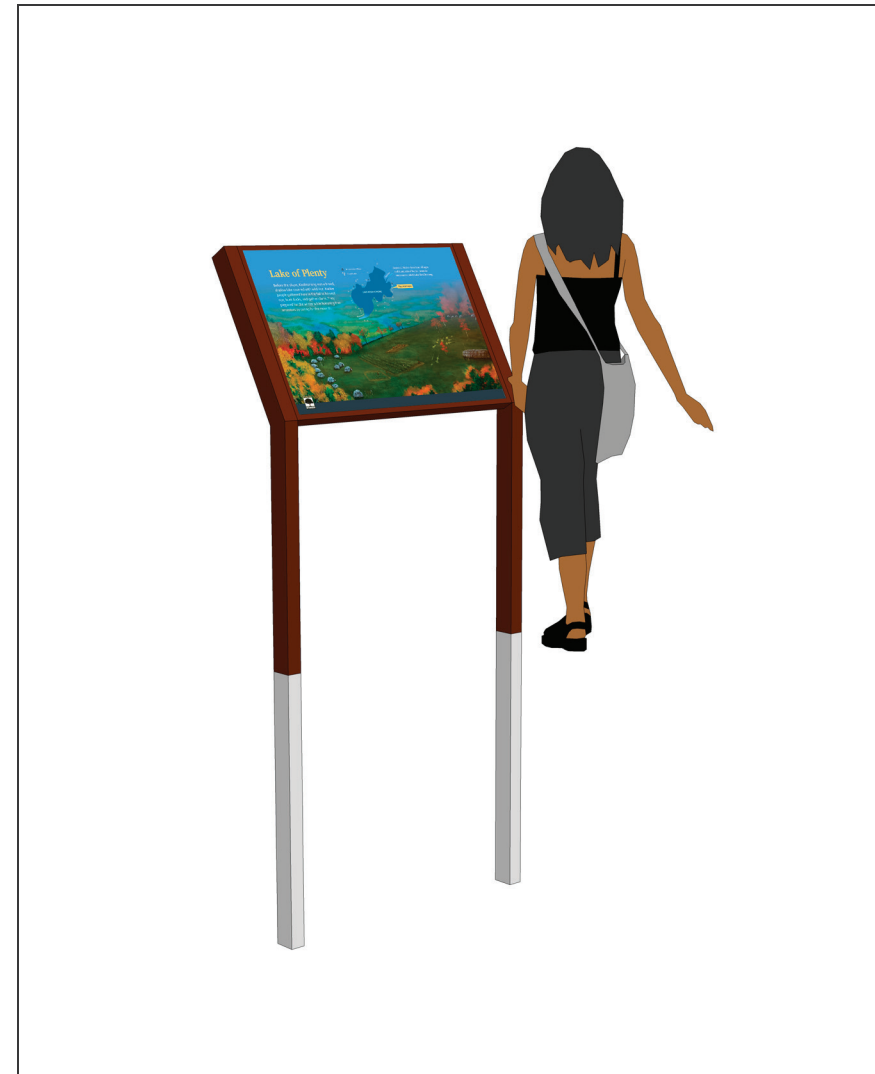
Native American people built these burial mounds more than 1,000 years ago. Their shapes might represent animals or spirits related to water, earth, and sky. They might tell creation stories. Whatever their meaning, they preserve history. Prior to Euro-American settlement, there were over 500 mounds along Lake Koshkonong's shores. Only a small fraction remains.

SUBJECT: IMP Mounds: The Mound Builders

PURPOSE: To explain why the mounds are here in the context of life among the mound builders at Lake Koshkonong

**Notes & Questions:**

- Needs Ho-Chunk consultation & approval



**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Low profile
- **SIZE:** 36" x 24"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Near parking
- **ORIENTATION:** Southeast
- **LAT:** 42°52'30.18"N
- **LONG:** - 88°54'32.47"W





# Lake of Plenty

Before the 1840s, Koshkonong was a broad, shallow lake covered with wild rice. Native people gathered here in the fall to harvest rice, hunt ducks, and gather clams. They prepared for the winter while honoring their ancestors by caring for the mounds.

- ▲ Native American Village
- Mound Cluster

Seasonal Native American villages and hundreds of burial mounds once surrounded Lake Koshkonong.

You Are Here

LAKE KOSHKONONG

Rock River

Rock River



Chris Sweet

SUBJECT: Ho-Chunk Nation/Stewardship

PURPOSE: To introduce the Ho-Chunk Nation's connection to this site, and encourage respectful stewardship of park resources.

**Notes & Questions:**

- Needs Ho-Chunk consultation & approval



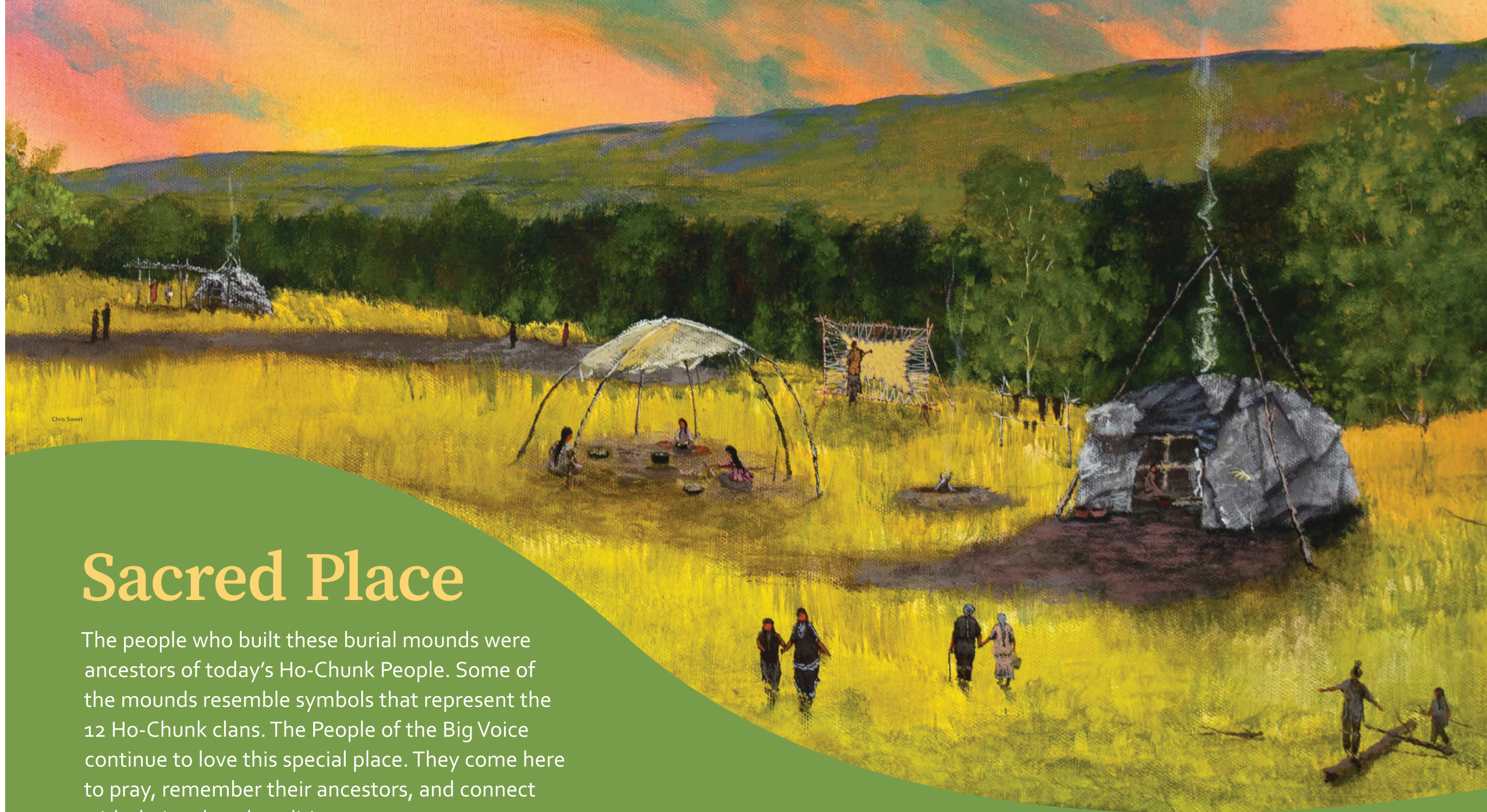
**BASE SKETCH:**

- **TYPE:** Low profile
- **SIZE:** 36" x 24"
- **PANEL MATERIAL:** HPL
- **BASE MATERIAL:** Painted aluminum
- **COLOR:** Brown
- **MOUNT:** In-ground

**LOCATION:**

- **DESCRIPTION:** Near parking
- **ORIENTATION:** Southeast
- **LAT:** 42°52'30.28"N
- **LONG:** - 88°54'32.56"W





## Sacred Place

The people who built these burial mounds were ancestors of today's Ho-Chunk People. Some of the mounds resemble symbols that represent the 12 Ho-Chunk clans. The People of the Big Voice continue to love this special place. They come here to pray, remember their ancestors, and connect with their cultural traditions.



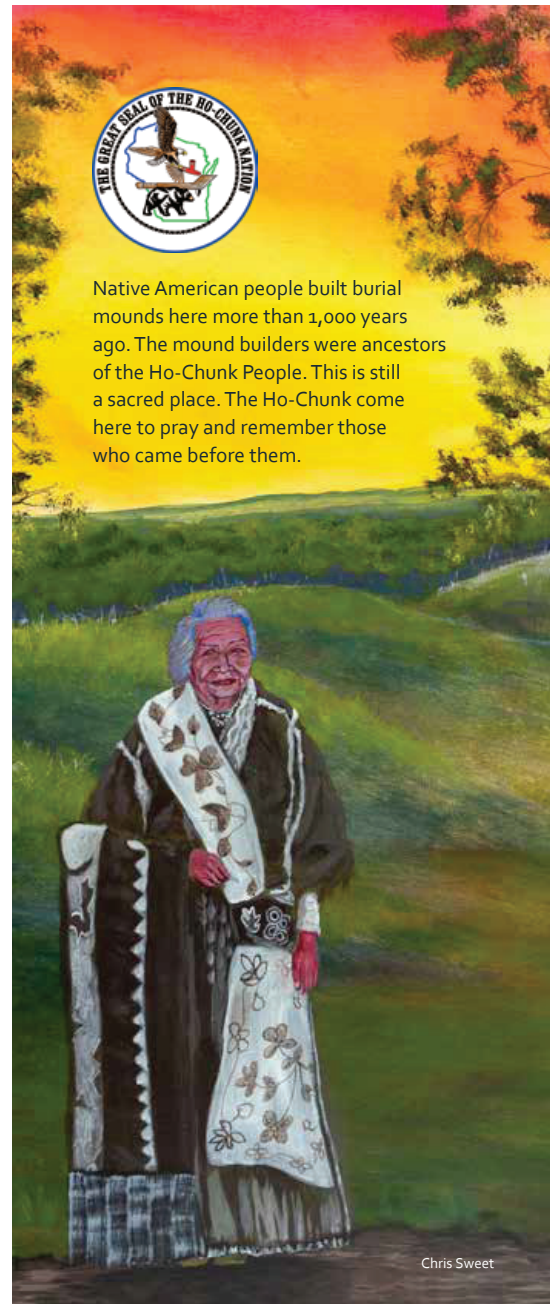
SUBJECT: Park brochure (handout)

PURPOSE: To show visitors the trail loop and share information about the mounds

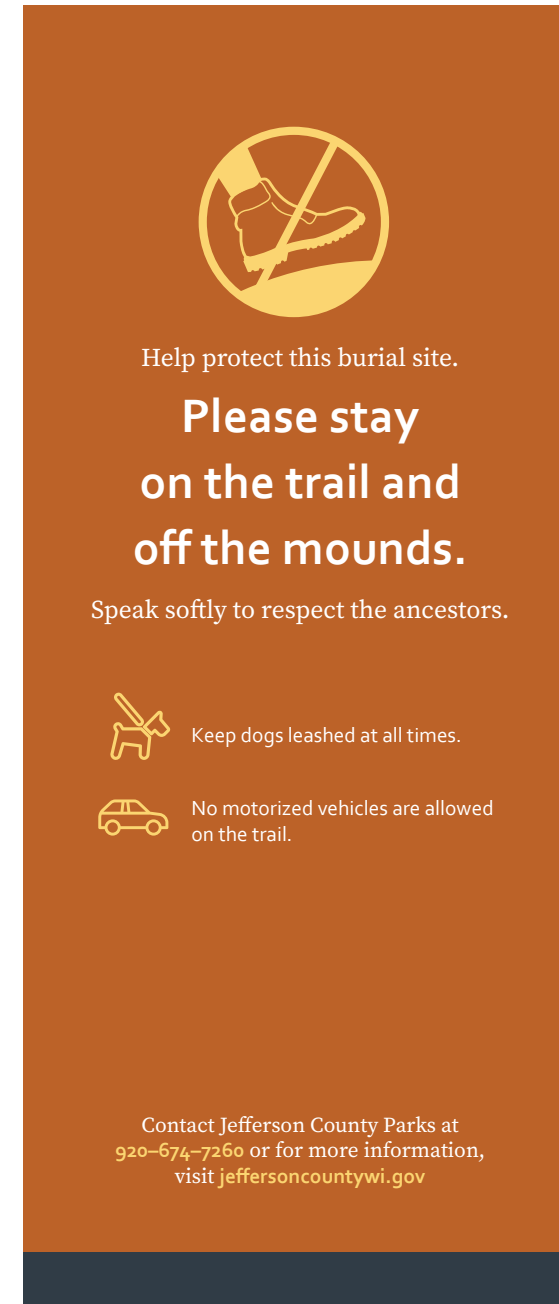
**Notes & Questions:**

- Needs Ho-Chunk consultation & approval

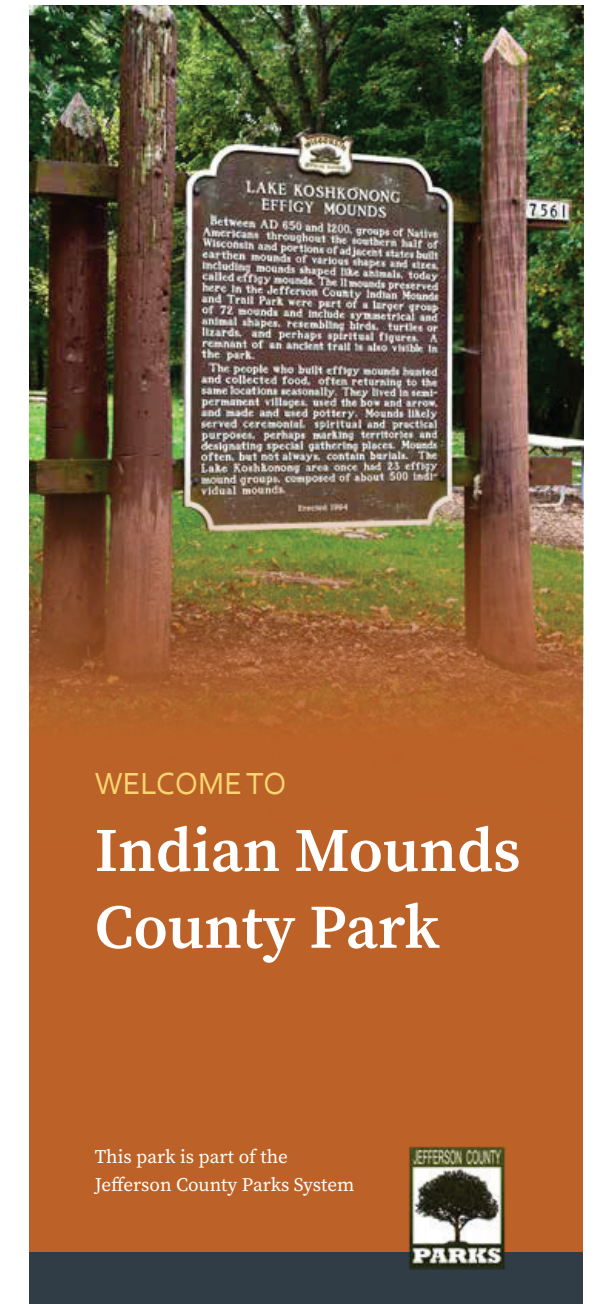
Inside Flap



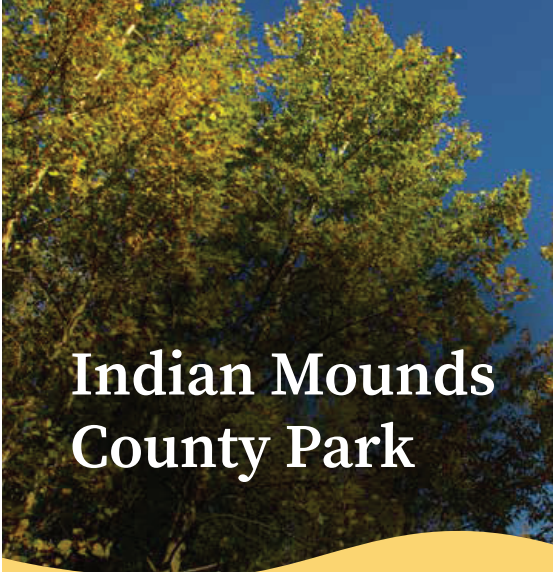
Back Cover




Front Cover



Inside Spread

## Indian Mounds County Park



Native American Village  
 Mound Cluster

**LAKE KOSHKONONG**

**Indian Mounds  
County Park**

Before the 1840s, Koshkonong was a broad, shallow lake covered with wild rice. Seasonal Native American villages and hundreds of burial mounds surrounded its shores.



- ..... Interpretive Trail
- Historic Trail
- - - Park Boundary
- == Road
- P Parking
- ⌒ Bridge
- Mounds

Koshkonong Mounds Rd.

0 — 50 Meters — 300 Feet

North  
↓

Vinne Ha Ha Rd.

This park preserves 19 Native American burial mounds and part of a historical walking trail. The people who created these mounds built them in distinctive shapes. The shapes might relate to water, earth, and sky. The mounds might represent animals or spirits. They tell stories about the people's history.