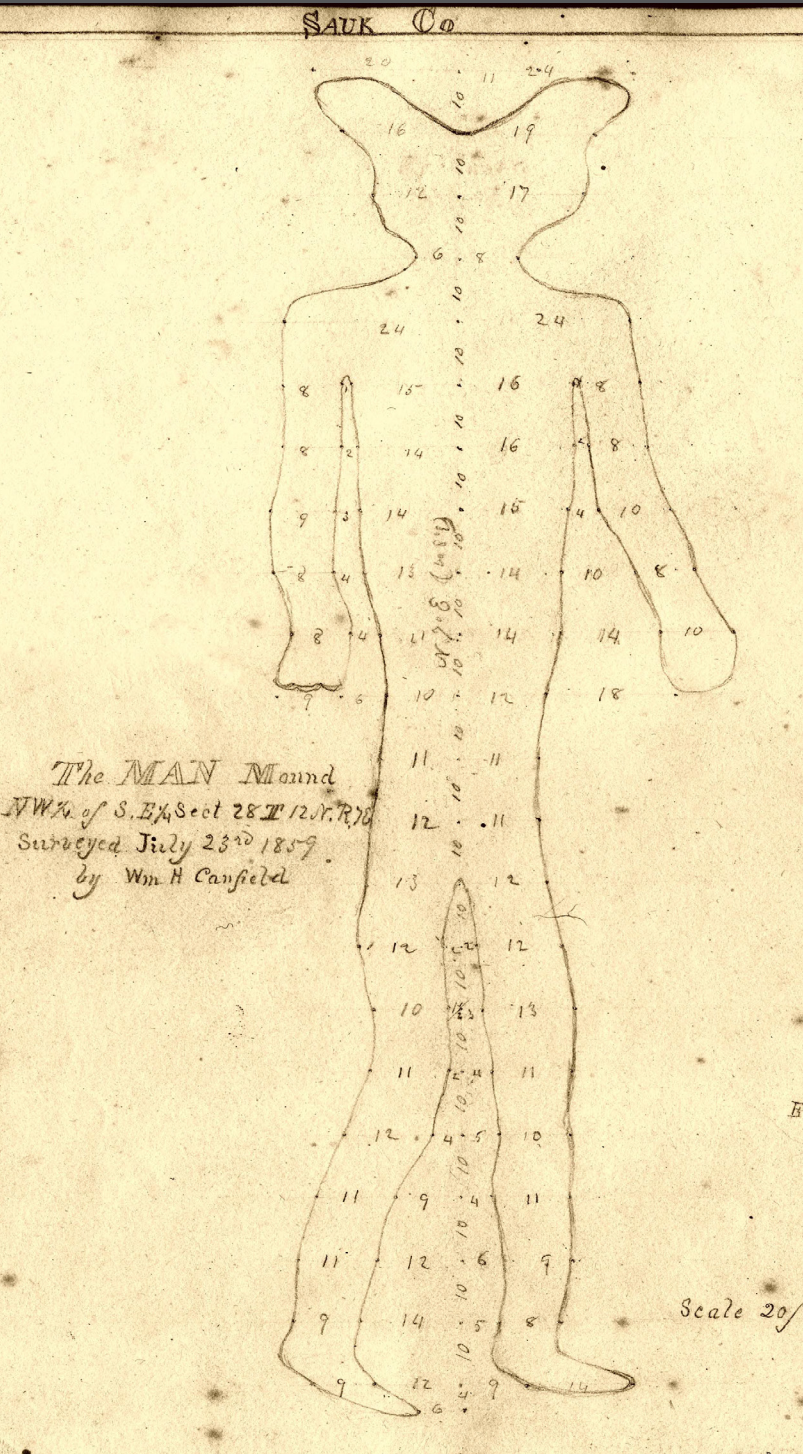


Man Mound National Historic Landmark

MASTER PROPERTY PLAN

2020 - 2040



Foreword.

acknowledgments

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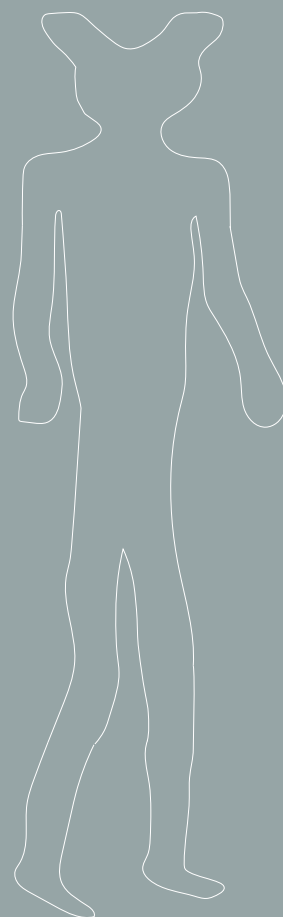


contents

Introduction	2
Property History	3
Inventory	6
Planning Process	7
Strategic Planning	9
Implementation	11
References	13
Appendices	14

Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement

National Historic Landmark Application



“We are pleased to note the increasing interest that is being manifested in the discovery and preservation of this class of relics of a people long since forgotten, of which the Man Mound is considered of the greatest interest and importance of all of Wisconsin’s celebrated emblematic earthworks.”

- John M. True, Dedication of Man Mound Park, Aug. 8, 1908



Aerial view of Man Mound 2018- Credit: Mike Johnsen

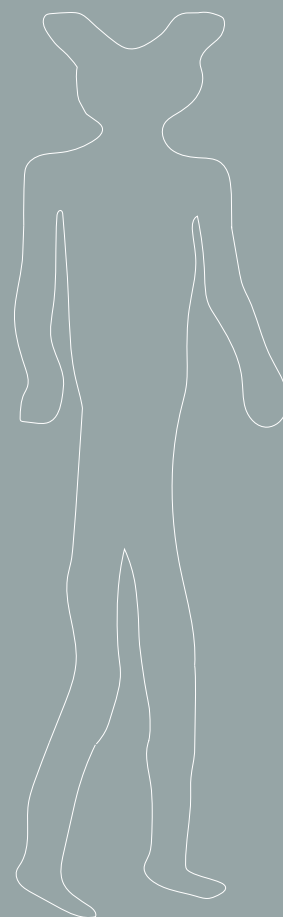
INTRODUCTION

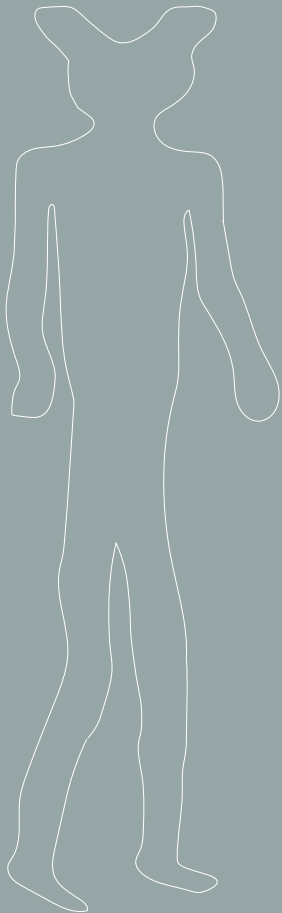
Man Mound National Historic Landmark is a small 1.78 acre park recognized on the National Register of Historic Places and is listed as a National Historic Landmark. The park and the road on which it sits were both named for the rare anthropomorphic shaped effigy mound, commonly known as the Man Mound. Located in the Town of Greenfield, east of the City of Baraboo, the park is nestled among farmland, and wooded hills.

The Sauk County Historical Society has been an owner of the property since it was purchased for preservation in October of 1907 and has been partnering with Sauk County for over 50 years to manage the property as part of the County Park System. The Historical Society as the owner of the property, is responsible for the preservation of the site for its significance as a historic burial site. As the site is privately owned property the Society has the authority for its use, maintenance, and enhancement. Sauk County maintains the property as part of the County Park System for the enjoyment and edification of local and visiting citizens.

The Sauk County Historical Society with the assistance of the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department has created the following master plan for Man Mound National Historic Landmark for the future management, preservation, enhancement, and expansion of services available at this historically and culturally significant landmark. The master planning process was designed for community involvement and purposed with the following objectives: cultural heritage and education, outdoor recreation opportunities, management techniques, and fiscal responsibilities. The plan strategizes maintenance and property improvements over the next 20 years to be implemented through the partnership between the Sauk County Historical Society and Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department and with consultation from the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Through the planning process, three main priorities were identified. First and foremost, the preservation of the mound as a cultural and historic landmark with priority on all current and future management strategies. The preservation of Man Mound is reflected in the other priorities of reestablishing the historical landscape and land acquisition. By restoring a natural grass landscape, the Man Mound shall be observed as it once may have been by its creators, while the strong rooted vegetation will stabilize the soil, reduce the need for mowing, and thereby reduce compaction. Land acquisition will assist in the restoration or preservation of the surrounding viewscape and protect adjacent cultural resources. The Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office serves an advisory role to the Historical Society and Sauk County on matters pertaining to the management of the property, along with the area's history, culture, and language. The property is maintained through an agreement between the Historical Society and Sauk County which stipulates activities and allowed maintenance techniques as described herein.





PROPERTY HISTORY

The Man Mound property was purchased through fundraising by the Sauk County Historical Society, the Wisconsin Archeological Society and the Federated Women's Clubs of Wisconsin in 1907 and dedicated as a park the following year. Man Mound National Historic Landmark is named after the rare, man-shaped effigy mound found on the property, originally measuring about 214 feet long by 48 feet wide. The effigy mound, commonly known as the Man Mound is the only remaining anthropomorphic shaped effigy mound in the world and dates back to AD 750-1200.

The Effigy Mound Builders began plying their skills as early as 300 AD, and continued the practice until around 1400 AD when they either abandoned the practice or were assimilated into other indigenous cultures. They subsisted primarily by hunting, fishing, and gathering wild vegetables and berries.

There have been many different mound forms documented through time. The oldest variation is an earthen dome-shape known as "conical." These can range in different size and height depending on the number of individuals interred (some conical mounds could have between a dozen to hundreds buried). Conical mounds can be dated as far back as roughly 500 BC. Gradually through time, countless different geometric shapes would be constructed. Some of the most evidenced shapes include linear (long rectangular shaped), and bi-conical mounds (conical mounds linked with one another by linear mounds in between). The last known constructed mounds are effigy, which are mounds built in the shape of different animals including birds, bears, turtles, and long-tailed creatures. While it is unknown the purpose of the effigy mounds, it is speculated that they may have been a representation of different clans in addition to being of highly sacred ceremonial significance. Effigy mounds are unique to a small area of the Upper Midwest. This includes southern Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and portions of northern Illinois.

Others have speculated that they may also have had religious significance or acted as guardians of the village. At one time over 900 mounds existed in Sauk County alone. Over 75%, have subsequently been plowed under, erased by floods and destroyed by looters or construction. One early Honey Creek farmer noted that, "we were rather irked by the large number of Indian mounds we had to plow down. There must have been at least 25 on our land....Some were shaped like animals and some like birds, and all were from three to five feet high...I suppose we should not have destroyed them. But they were then regarded merely as obstacles to cultivation, and everybody plowed them down."

The Man Mound was first recorded and mapped by pioneer surveyor W. H. Canfield in 1859. His survey of the mound was published that same year by the naturalist Increase Lapham. The original survey recorded the full figure of the mound at 214 long with prominent, westward pointing feet. Man Mound was partially destroyed in the mid 19th century when the lower parts of its legs were leveled for road construction and the feet became part of an orchard and later pastureland.

In 1905, H.E. Cole, local historian and photographer, and A.B. Stout, science teacher at Baraboo High School, conducted an archaeological survey of area mounds and the Man Mound in particular. They discovered during their survey that the remaining body of the mound was to be committed to the plow, by the current owner. The two men launched an immediate appeal to the Wisconsin Archaeological Society and the newly formed Sauk County Historical Society in an effort to obtain the property upon which the mound was situated.

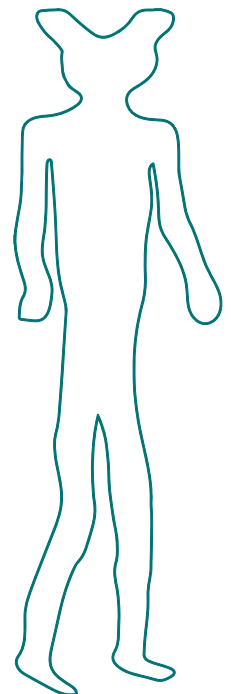
A committee was formed and a movement organized to raise the \$225 needed to purchase the property. Among those on the committee, were H.E. Cole and Jacob Van Orden, local banker and owner of the home where the SCHS museum is now located. Donations of small amounts between \$1 and \$15 were suggested so that many people could participate in the acquisition. The Federated Women's Clubs of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Archeological Society helped procure funds. By the end of 1907, the money had been raised and the property purchased. Cole immediately began clearing the land of vines and brush, seeding grass, setting boundaries and installing hitching posts. Jacob Van Orden donated a plaque designed by architects Ferry & Clas of Milwaukee to commemorate the mound's discovery and preservation.

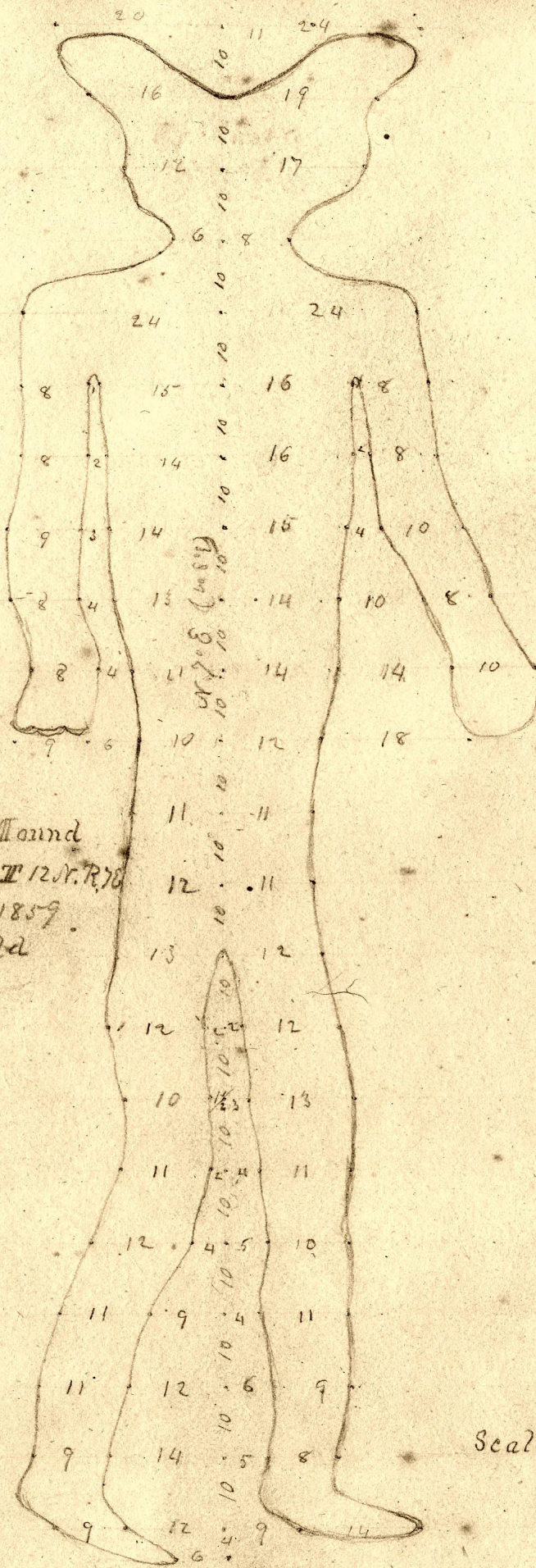
On August 8, 1908, a group of 200 assembled at the Warren Hotel in downtown Baraboo, and then proceeded to the site of Man Mound Park to dedicate the land and the marker. "...Vehicles of every description being in waiting and the trip through the picturesque county began", noted a reporter. "A cloud of choking dust enveloped the queue of travelers as they traveled to the site over the dirt roads in their open-air autos and horse-drawn carriages."

The Man Mound was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 with a new nomination being written and accepted in 2010 which included the land where the feet were located. In 2016 the property became a National Historic Landmark. Most of Man Mound Park is owned by the Sauk County Historical Society with an L-shaped piece to the east of the parking lot being owned by Sauk County. The majority of the property is a catalogued burial site monitored by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The entire park is maintained by the Sauk County Parks and Recreation division under the maintenance agreement included in appendix A.

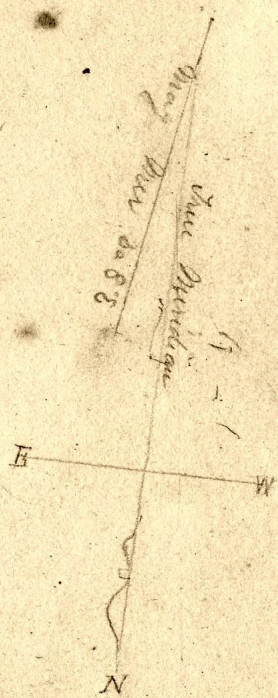


Commemoration of Man Mound Park August 8, 1908 - Credit: Sauk County Historical Society





The MAN Mound
 On NW 1/4 of S. E. 1/4 Sect 28 T. 12 N. R. 18
 Surveyed July 23rd 1859
 by Wm H Canfield



Scale 20 ft to the Inch

LOCATION & SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE

The park is located in the Town of Greenfield, less than two miles from the Baraboo city limits. The surrounding landscape is primarily agricultural cropland and pasture with wooded hillsides. There is slight development pressure due to the location near the city and proximity to major thoroughfares. Currently, there is a residence and active farming operations across the road. An old schoolhouse, which once utilized the park as a play area, is located along the eastern property boundary and is now a residence.

The Man Mound as is visibly intact today, is 150' in length, 48' width, and 3' at its highest point from the base. Although the area of the feet is on the northside of Man Mound Road on private property, all visible remnants were destroyed in the 1800s from agricultural practices. Due to the park's status as a protected catalogued state burial site and National Historic Landmark, nothing on the site may pierce the soil. As such, everything placed on the property is weighted to sit atop the ground, including all signage, benches, and dedication markers.

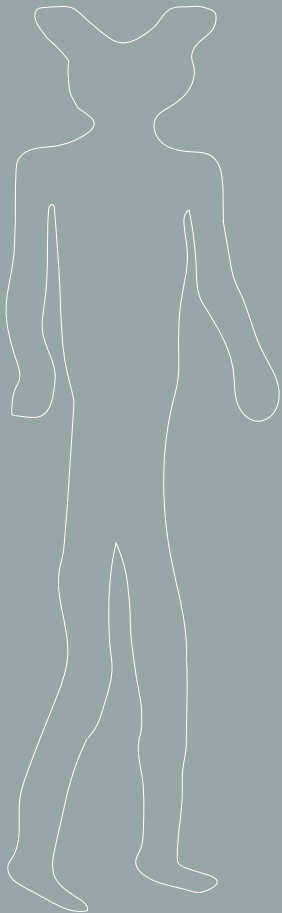
The property has a gravel parking lot off of Man Mound Road with space enough for 4 vehicles to safely park. Due to the high speed traffic on Man Mound Road and the slight topographic changes along the road, it is important for vehicles to be able to turn around rather than back out of the parking area. The Park is identified by an address and large sign identifying it as Man Mound National Historic Landmark. There are also signs along Man Mound Road notifying people of the presence of the park.

OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The park is designed and purposed with quiet contemplation rather than a variety of outdoor recreation options. There are opportunities for visitors to sit on benches placed in the mound viewing area to reflect on the Man Mound. The original 1908 plaque commemorating the dedication of the park is still located within the viewing area along with the 2016 National Historic Landmark designation. Also in the viewing area are interpretive signage panels that provide a history of the mound, its significance, and preservation. Large oak trees shade picnic tables on the east side of the park, accompanied by a merry-go-round, and pit toilet. Native plants allow for foraging opportunities along the edge of the woods and foodstuffs for wildlife.

The majority of the park is currently vegetated in lawn turf grass, with the mound having longer, no mow fescue being seeded on top of existing legume and grass species. There are mature white oak, hickory, basswood, black cherry and red maple trees scattered throughout the entire park. Along the south and west property lines, the periphery of moderately wooded area allows for the growth of black caps, raspberries, and ferns. The mound also has ferns growing in sections consistently shaded by the proximity of the trees, which causes instability in the soil underneath. Any planting or seeding done on the mound or within the original park boundary must be done without disturbing the soil underneath. Tree removal may also only be cut down to the soil grade, but no lower, allowing visitors to see the stumps of the old growth trees which once shaded the park.

The soils on-site consist of well-drained silt loams to silty clay loams on slopes between 2 to 6 percent, originating from glacial till material. Due to the silt content of the soils onsite, it is important to keep vegetative cover to avoid erosion even in low to no slope conditions. The high susceptibility to erosion causes land disturbing activities to have a negative impact on soil health and stability. Maintenance activities should only be conducted during dry weather as the soil is easily compacted during wet conditions. The soil is well suited for grasses, legumes and trees, thus supporting the proposed no-mow fescue on the mound.



PLANNING PROCESS

This master property planning process was designed and conducted through the partnership between the Sauk County Historical Society and the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department. The Historical Society as the property owners, are responsible for the preservation of this site as a historical burial site and National Historical Landmark. As the site is a privately owned burial site, the Sauk County Historical Society has the authority for its use, maintenance, and enhancement with certain oversight from the Wisconsin Historical Society as a cataloged burial site. Sauk County maintains the property as part of the County Park System for the enjoyment of local and visiting citizens. Through the planning process, effigy mound experts and the Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer were consulted on mound preservation and surrounding property management techniques to design a new maintenance agreement between the Society and County which emphasizes priorities identified in the Master Plan.

The planning process began in March 2020 between the Historical Society Sacred Sites Committee and the Sauk County Planning and Zoning and Parks divisions of the Land Resources and Environment Department. The planning team worked cooperatively to inventory the Man Mound property and develop priorities for current and long-term maintenance. Through this process, the Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement (Appendix A) was developed in order to restructure the partnership between the two agencies and cultivate maintenance strategies to meet the property priorities. The development of the Man Mound National Historic Landmark Master Plan was done in conjunction with the Yellow Thunder Memorial Master Plan as both properties are owned by the Historical Society and maintained by Sauk County.

The priorities and maintenance strategies for these two properties were presented by the Sacred Sites Committee to the public on June 25, 2020 at the Sauk County History Center. This Master Planning Concept Review was well attended by the public, allowing for dialogue exchange between the Sacred Sites Committee and public. The biggest concern of members of the public was the transition of the Man Mound from turf grass to the no-mow fescue, and the surrounding buffer area. This brought to the attention of planning staff the need for temporary educational signage to explain the transitional vegetation period. Members of the public expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn about the properties and request further information.

The final draft of the plan was approved at the Sauk County Historical Society Board on November 16, 2020 and again at a public hearing with the Land Resources and Environment Committee on November 24, 2020. Prior to approval at the public hearings, the plan was presented to the Board and Committee for review, along with the draft plan being posted online on the Sauk County Historical Society and Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department webpages for public viewing and comment. The Sauk County Board of Supervisors gave final approval on December 17, 2020.

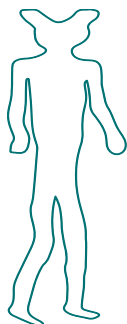
RELATIONSHIP TO SCORP

As a part of the Sauk County Parks system, this Master Plan meets the priorities and objectives of the Sauk County Outdoor Recreation Plan. In particular, Man Mound Park and Yellow Thunder Memorial are listed as an objective under the Partnership priority to work cooperatively with the Historical Society for the future planning of the properties. The Man Mound National Historic Landmark Master Plan meets the following additional priorities and objectives of the Outdoor Recreation Plan:

- **Priority:** Further development of the County Park System
 - **Objective:** Develop Master Plans for Sauk County Properties
- **Priority:** Resource Management and Stewardship
 - **Objective:** Community Education
- **Priority:** Partnerships
 - **Objective:** Expand County Planning Services
 - **Objective:** Intersect with other units of government and non-government organizations (NGOs)
 - **Objective:** Future Management of Man Mound Park and Yellow Thunder Memorial



Man Mound 1910 - Credit: Sauk County Historical Society



STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Man Mound National Historic Landmark shall be preserved for the future cultural, historical, and educational enrichment of all who visit. To achieve this goal, the following priorities have been identified for the long-term maintenance of the park: mound preservation, restoration of the historical viewscape, and land acquisition.

Mound Preservation

The main priority for maintaining the park is the preservation of the mound itself. Mound preservation specialists from Effigy Mounds National Monument, along with the Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer were consulted on mound maintenance and preservation strategies. Maintenance techniques utilized will be as stated in the Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement included in Appendix A.

Reducing compaction and encouraging uniform grass coverage is paramount for stabilizing the mound. This will be accomplished through the removal of trees near the mound to reduce the risk of destructive falls and to increase the amount of sunlight reaching the mound, promoting a more homogeneous vegetative cover. Trees shall be removed only as stipulated in the Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement.

A no-mow native fescue species will be employed for reseeding throughout the mound for uniform vegetative cover. Due to the site being a catalogued burial site, there can be no ground disturbance, even to plant seed plugs. Also with the highly erodible soils onsite, it is not pertinent to kill the vegetation by other means. Therefore, all seeding must be done on top of existing vegetation in the hopes that it shall gradually outcompete for establishment. This shall make switching from the existing turf lawn on the mound to a no-mow fescue slow, but will be best for long-term care and preservation. The no-mow fescue will create a strong, cohesive root bed, stabilizing the soil, while reducing the need to mow more than a few times a year for weed and woody vegetation suppression.

A buffer of the same fescue blend shall also be established around the perimeter of the mound. The buffer is designed to reduce the amount of visitors walking on the mound, and to create a more natural, sinuous border as it may have once looked when it was first constructed. It is recommended that any vegetative transition area be accompanied by temporary signage explaining the process and importance of the transition.

Restoration of Historical Viewscape

A viewscape is the spatial arrangement of the landscape as seen from a specific vantage point. The way in which the visible corridor is arranged changes how the viewer interprets and interacts with the vantage point. In this case, the mound is the main vantage point and the surrounding landscape creates the visual corridor. At the time of Canfield's original survey, the area was documented to contain oak savanna, and a similar habitat is likely what was present at the time of construction.

Beyond the mound, no-mow natural grasses shall be planted in flowing borders in the area identified in Exhibit A of the Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement. The strong rooted natural grass vegetation stabilizes the soil and reduces the frequency of mowing. This addition will create a more enjoyable and educational landscape for visitors. Signage shall be added adjacent to the natural grass area to inform visitors of its historical and ecological context.

Land Acquisition

When feasible, land should be acquired surrounding all sides of the mound for protection against development and restoration of a natural grass viewscape. Land acquisition will assist in the restoration of the surrounding viewscape for an immersive educational experience, and protect adjacent cultural resources. Easements with surrounding landowners are another option to maintain either agriculture production or greenspace while limiting development near park boundaries.

General Park Improvements

In order to successfully accomplish the three main priorities proper communication to the public is vital. Interpretive and educational signage is key to convey information to visitors both at the landmark and directional signage off-site. The Sauk County Park's sign shall be updated to remove the word "park" to emphasize that this is a National Historic Landmark. The sign will be sandblasted and painted over, the word will then be replaced with a metal or plastic cut out of the Man Mound. Through the cooperation of Town, County, and State Highway Departments, the historical markers and directional signage will be updated to state "Man Mound National Historic Landmark". The emphasis of the landmark dedication is to portray the cultural and historical significance of this property and to highlight that this is a sacred site.



Top: 1908 Dedication Plaque, Middle: County Parks Sign, Bottom: 2016 National Historic Landmark Designation
Credit: Sauk County Historical Society

The vault toilet located in the southeast corner of the park shall be removed due to disrepair and general misuse. The tank shall be pumped and removed, or buried in accordance with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources guidelines. The rest of the picnic area will remain intact, but immobilization of the merry-go-round is recommended for the safety of visitors. Once immobilized, the benches and metal will be refreshed to accentuate the historic company logo. This will create more seating and preserve another piece of local history.

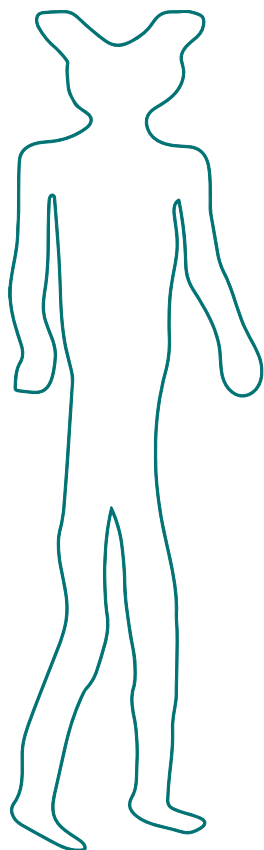


Man Mound 2019 - Credit: Sauk County Historical Society

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the strategic planning goals shall take time and money from both the Sauk County Historical Society and Sauk County Parks Recreation Division. Currently, the County budget accounts for the general maintenance and staff time. Fixture installations such as signs will need supplemental funds. The following tasks are outlined to achieve the strategic planning initiatives and ultimate goal of preserving this National Historic Landmark for the future cultural, historical, and educational enrichment of all who visit. Tasks that are listed as “on-going” are considered a part of general maintenance which may be carried out for an indefinite amount of time until it is no longer necessary. “Immediate” tasks should be implemented within 1-3 years, and “pending” within 3-5 years. All “future” actions may be implemented as funds become available and an opportunity presents itself.

Task	Priority	Responsible Party	Project Scope	Estimated Cost
Mound Vegetation Transition	Ongoing	LRE Parks	Continuous seeding of the mound for fescue establishment and mowing to control weeds and pests.	\$200 annually
Temporary Signage	Ongoing	SCHS	Post temporary signage during tree removal or during vegetative transition to explain the process.	\$20 per transition period
Natural Grass Area	Immediate	LRE Parks	Convert turf grass to native WI grasses with a sinuous border .	\$1,000 annually
Vault Toilet Removal	Immediate	LRE Parks	Pump and remove or bury the concrete tank. Removal of structure.	\$1,000
National Historic Landmark Designation	Immediate	SCHS/LRE Parks	Remove the word park from the County sign and replace with a cutout of the Man Mound. Work with Highway Depts. to update road signage.	\$200 for County sign \$75-100 per roadway sign
Merry-go-round	Immediate	SCHS/LRE Parks	Immobilize merry-go-round and paint.	\$500
Interpretive Signage	Pending	SCHS	Additional signage shall be added with information on the cultural landscape.	\$3,000 per panel
Tree Removal	Future	LRE Parks	Trees shall be removed as stated in the Maintenance Agreement.	TBD upon the amount removed
Easements/Land Acquisition	Future	SCHS/LRE Parks	When feasible, property shall be acquired surrounding the NHL through easements or land acquisition.	TBD



Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement

Property Map

National Historic Landmark Designation

