

EXHIBIT B

YELLOW THUNDER MEMORIAL

Wakajazi Maagex

MASTER PROPERTY PLAN

2020 - 2040



Foreword

acknowledgments

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**“Chief Wakajazi’s story is one of
perseverance and resilience in the face of
great adversity.”**



Chief Wakajazi - Credit: Sauk County Historical Society



INTRODUCTION

The Yellow Thunder Memorial is a 0.51 acre property dedicated to the life and achievements of Ho-Chunk Chief Wakajazi, or Yellow Thunder. Chief Wakajazi's perseverance for his people and culture, along with his partner Washington Woman, is commemorated along County Rd A in the Town of Fairfield between Wisconsin Dells and Baraboo. The land on which the memorial currently sits was donated by a local farmer in 1963 and is near the 40 acre parcel that Wakajazi purchased in 1849 as a refuge for himself and other tribal members.

The Sauk County Historical Society has owned the memorial since its dedication in 1909 when the monument was constructed to protect the remains of Wakajazi and Washington Woman. Over the last 50+ years, the Society has partnered with Sauk County to manage the property as part of the County Park System. The Historical Society as the owners of the property, are responsible for the preservation of the site for its significance as a historic burial site. As the site is privately owned by the Society, the Historical 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 of local citizens and visitors.

The Sauk County Historical Society with the assistance of the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department has created the following master plan for the Yellow Thunder Memorial for the future management, preservation, enhancement, and expansion of services available at this historically and culturally significant landmark. The master planning process was designed with the following objectives: cultural heritage and education, management techniques, monument preservation 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. The key priority being the historical and cultural significance of the property, and to appropriately communicate the history of Chief Wakajazi and the Ho-Chunk Nation. The other main priorities are the restoration and preservation of the monument itself and land acquisition to protect the monument for future generations. The monument thus far has remained solid against the test of time, but improvements are necessary to facilitate correct information to visitors. It is recommended that land or development rights be acquired surrounding the monument to protect against development and for restoration of a viewscape reminiscent of when Chief Wakajazi was alive. The Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer serves an advisory role to the Historical Society and Sauk County in 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 Sauk County Historical Society and Sauk County which stipulates activities and allowed maintenance techniques as described herein.



HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE

Yellow Thunder, Wakajazi, was a Ho-Chunk chief during one of the most turbulent times in modern Ho-Chunk tribal history. He was born sometime in the latter half of the 18th century and belonged to the Thunderbird Clan of the Ho-Chunk tribe. His band had a village at Yellow Banks along the Fox River. Little is known of his early life but in 1828 he was part of a delegation of 15 Ho-Chunk chiefs and one Ho-Chunk woman who were escorted on a tour of the eastern United States which culminated with a visit to the White House to meet with President John Quincy Adams. The trip was meant to impress upon the Ho-Chunk chiefs the might and power of the United States. The one woman who was on the trip was the daughter of Chief White Crow. She was the wife of Chief Wakajazi and after the trip she was often known as Washington Woman. The trip came about during the aftermath of the Winnebago War or Winnebago Uprising in 1827 in which some of the Prairie LaCrosse band of Ho-Chunk Indians attacked white settlers in Prairie du Chien and along the Mississippi River. The uprising resulted in the construction of Fort Winnebago at Portage and an 1829 treaty in which the Ho-Chunk ceded their land in south central Wisconsin.

Three years later in 1832 the Blackhawk War broke out which was led by Sauk Chief Blackhawk. The Ho-Chunk were not largely involved but in the aftermath of the conflict they signed another land cession treaty ceding all of their land south of the Wisconsin River in exchange for land in Iowa. The treaty was unpopular and only a limited number of Ho-Chunk moved out of Wisconsin territory.

In October of 1837 Wakajazi was part of a delegation of 20 chiefs and warriors that were sent to Washington under the pretense of speaking with the President about their homeland in Wisconsin. The delegation sent by the tribe was selected because they did not have the official power to sign any treaty. After they arrived though, they were repeatedly pressured to sell all remaining lands east of the Mississippi. With winter approaching and no means to pay for the return trip home if they didn't cooperate, the delegation, including Wakajazi, finally signed the treaty on November 1 with protests that they did not have the authority to sell their lands. The delegation was also deliberately misled into thinking the treaty gave the Ho-Chunk 8 years to move when instead it read only 8 months.

Over the next few years the Ho-Chunk were slow to move to the reservation west of the Mississippi. By 1840, settlement north and west of the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers including in Sauk County was putting pressure on federal officials to move the Ho-Chunk. Wakajazi was already known as one of the leaders of the treaty-resisting faction that refused to move. In May of 1840, Wakajazi was invited to Fort Winnebago at the portage to get provisions but was incarcerated along with his wife Washington Woman when they arrived. He was released after promising to bring his band to the fort for removal to lands west of the Mississippi, which he did. After a few years, Wakajazi was back in the Portage area and was rounded up again in 1843. Late in 1846, Wakajazi returned to Wisconsin once more only to be rounded up again and deported in 1848.





Yellow Thunder Memorial 2019 - Credit: Sauk County Historical Society

In 1849, Wakajazi tried a different tactic to remain in Wisconsin. In company with fur trader and Indian interpreter John T. de la Ronde, he went to the U.S. Land Office in Mineral Point, Wisconsin and inquired whether it was permitted for Indians to purchase land. After being told it was possible, he entered and paid for forty acres in the Town of Delton in Sauk County. This made him a legal land owner under the U.S. system of land ownership. His property, which became known as "Yellow Thunder's 40," became a haven for other Ho-Chunk who returned to Wisconsin from reservations west of the Mississippi. For the rest of his life, Wakajazi remained active in tribal affairs. In 1863, he was one of eight chiefs that met with Wisconsin Governor Edward Salomon to smoke the peace pipe and discuss relations.

Monument Dedication

Wakajazi died in February of 1874 near the Wisconsin River just north of his forty acres. He was buried near his wife, who had died several years earlier. In 1909, a small stone monument was constructed about a half mile from his property near the corner of County Road A and Shady Lane Road to commemorate Chief Wakajazi and his wife, Washington Woman. The monument was moved to its current location in 1963 when County Road A was widened. That monument still stands today as a testament to the courage and perseverance of Chief Wakajazi and Washington Woman.



PROPERTY INVENTORY

The Yellow Thunder Memorial is located along County Rd A, between the City of Baraboo and Wisconsin Dells. The monument is surrounded by gently sloped crop and woodland within the Wisconsin River Watershed. The property is bordered on three sides by cropland, but the closest residences are visible at a quarter mile away.

The property is located on a well-traveled road between Baraboo and Wisconsin Dells, increasing noise levels from traffic at the site. There is a gravel parking area with space to park multiple vehicles. The driveway access point is utilized by the surrounding farmer for field access. Local law enforcement and emergency vehicles also make use of the parking area as a staging area between the two communities. The parking area is separated from the rest of the property by a wood split-rail fence.

Beyond the fence, turf grass covers the majority of the ground, except for a few young trees; three red oak and a white oak. The soil on-site consists of Wyocena sandy loam, originating from glacial till or moraine. This permeable soil is suited for crops, grassland, and woodland. This is ideal for outdoor recreation as the soil is relatively stable to erosion and preferential for mixed grass and wood flora.

Near the entrance there is a bench in the shade of a red oak and informational signage telling the story of Wakajazi. There are plans for an additional sign containing the same information in Ho-Chunk to be placed near the informational sign in English. The monument rests in the west central area of the property. As it was originally constructed, it sits at an angle approximately two feet (2') by two feet (2') and four feet (4') high. There are two limestone plaques that are set into the northeast and southeast sides stating who rests there and who donated the monument. Over time, weathering has worn away the epitaphs on the plaques. Replacement granite plaques were affixed in poured concrete at the base of the monument. These too are now in disrepair due to weathering and vandalism. Other aspects of the monument are also in need of repair, such as loose or missing stones. The information on the plaques are also in need of correction, as the exact year of Wakajazi's birth is not known.



Chief Wakajazi Memorial 2019 - Credit: Sauk County Historical Society

PLANNING PROCESS

The master 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 owner is responsible for the preservation of the site as a historical burial site. As the site is a privately owned catalogued burial site, Sauk County Historical Society has the authority for its use, maintenance, and enhancement with oversight from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Sauk County maintains the property as part of the County Park System for the enjoyment of local and visiting citizens. Through the planning process, the Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer was consulted on property priorities and maintenance strategies used to create the agreement between the Society and County.

The planning process began in March 2020 between the Historical Society Sacred Sites Committee and the Sauk County Planning and Zoning and Parks service areas of the Land Resources and Environment Department. The planning team worked cooperatively to inventory the Yellow Thunder Memorial property and develop priorities for current and long-term maintenance. Through the process, the Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement (Appendix A) was developed in order to revamp the partnership between the two agencies and cultivate maintenance strategies to meet the property priorities.

The development of the Yellow Thunder Memorial Master Plan was done in conjunction with the Man Mound National Historic Landmark Master Plan as both properties are owned by the Historical Society, maintained by Sauk County, and covered under the Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement. The priorities and maintenance strategies for these two properties were both 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. 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 THE CORP

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 Yellow Thunder Memorial 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: Consider Multiple Outcomes when Planning for Cross-Boundary Recreation
 - Objective: Intersect with other units of government and non-government organizations (NGOs)

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Yellow Thunder Memorial shall commemorate Chief Wakajazi and the Ho-Chunk Nation for the cultural, historical, and educational enrichment of all who visit. The property is intended as a place of reflection and contemplation on the history of Chief Wakajazi, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and the ways in which that history has shaped the landscape and surrounding community. In order to preserve this sacred burial site, while allowing for the enrichment of visitors, the following priorities have been identified for the long-term maintenance of the property: restoration and preservation of the monument, future storytelling opportunities, and future land acquisition.

Restoration & Preservation of the Monument

The monument is over 100 years old and in need of repair due to weathering and vandalism. First and foremost, loose and missing stones on the monument need to be stabilized or replaced. The original epitaphs have eroded away through time, but are unable to be replaced with a legible plaque without undermining the stability of the monument. The epitaphs at the base are in need of repair and correction. It is recommended that the granite plaques and concrete at the base be removed. The granite plaque noting the original donors of the plaque will be moved to another area of the property. It is highly recommended that any work done on the monument be done by a professional masonry expert.

The epitaph stating it to be Chief Wakajazi and Washington Woman's burial site will be supplanted with corrected information on new granite, brass, or bronze plaque to be set in stone placed at the base to replace the concrete. A large stone will be utilized to mount the epitaph plaque to be placed at the front corner of the monument with smaller stones circling the base. Rocks should be placed around the entire perimeter as a barrier between visitors and maintenance equipment to protect the monument.

An offering area should be placed near the memorial, as currently visitors leave offerings under a loose stone on the top of the monument. It is recommended that the offering area be located near the monument, rather than a part of the monument to limit the amount of wear. Any designated offering area should be placed without piercing the soil, or distracting from the monument itself.

Storytelling Opportunities

The priority of the property is the commemoration of Chief Wakajazi and his partner Washington Woman as a sacred burial site. Within that tribute, is the responsibility and honor of telling their story and the history of the Ho-Chunk Nation of this region. To create a sense of a path through time, the turf grass will be replaced with prairie grasses that will form a circular path



starting at the fence and moving counterclockwise through time until 1874 where Yellow Thunder's Memorial rests. Any items placed around the circular path should be set upon the ground rather than permanently affixed to move as necessary for additional signage, or vegetation maintenance. Plaques and informational signage shall be placed along the path to tell the story of the Ho-Chunk Nation and Chief Wakajazi's fight for their people and culture. All signage should be made available in Ho-Chunk and English. The Ho-Chunk shall be consulted for all future signage installations on their history, culture and language.

A place shall be reserved for an art installation from a Ho-Chunk artist. The area reserved for the art piece, is noted in Exhibit B of the Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement. The space south of the monument was chosen as an area to allow the artist to create a piece that either: looks back on the history of the Ho-Chunk Nation and Chief Wakajazi; celebrates the present day people of the Ho-Chunk; looks towards the future of the Nation; or a collaboration of past, present and future. It is intended that the art piece be revealed as part of a celebration of the Ho-Chunk Nation such as Indigenous Peoples Day. Space shall be left on the southern part of the circle for future storytelling opportunities as the story of the Ho-Chunk is ongoing.

The turf grass will be replaced with native prairie grasses that consist of long stem grasses mixed with a few native flowering species. Long stem grasses will allow a semblance of privacy along the story walk while keeping the monument and future art piece visible at any point along the path. Additional trees conducive to growing with prairie grasses shall be planted to allow for further shade throughout the property. A seven foot (7') wide path shall be maintained starting at the entrance between wood posts and circling north around to the monument and then back to the entrance. A separate seven foot (7') wide path shall be maintained around the perimeter of the property in order to keep a separation between the prairie and surrounding cropland.

The creation of the story path within the long stem grasses with the addition of additional seating will allow greater opportunity for visitors to reflect on the significance of Chief Wakajazi's story. Additional shade, and the privacy provided by the prairie will assist in blocking distractions from the busy road while encouraging visitors to contemplate upon the story being told. The art piece is intended to celebrate the Ho-Chunk Nation of past, present, and future generations. Utilizing blank space along the end of the story walk for ancillary plaques symbolizes the ongoing story of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Future Land Acquisition

When feasible, land should be acquired surrounding the north, west, and south sides of the property for protection against development and further restoration of native prairie grasses. Land acquisition will assist in the restoration of the surrounding landscape for an immersive experience, while expanding future storytelling possibilities. Property expansion may also provide for additional art installations or additional story walks for other prominent Ho-Chunk members. Easements with surrounding landowners are another option to maintain agricultural production while limiting development near property boundaries. When considering future land acquisition, or easements, neighboring property owners shall be considered as partners in preserving open green space.

Land acquisition should also be considered if an opportunity arises to obtain Chief Wakajazi's original forty acres, or the adjacent forty acres that contain the burial of other people of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Both parcels are currently privately owned, with the "burial 40" being a catalogued burial site. The acquisition of these parcels would be for historical preservation purposes, and possible future educational opportunities.





Chief Wakajazi Memorial 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 Land Resources and Environment Department. Currently, the County budget accounts for the general maintenance and staff time. Fixture installations such as signs or the large scale prairie restoration will need supplemental funds. The following tasks are outlined to achieve the strategic planning initiatives and ultimate goal to commemorate Chief Wakajazi and the Ho-Chunk Nation for the cultural, historical, and educational enrichment of all who visit. "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
Native Prairie Restoration	Immediate	SCHS/LRE Parks	Turf grass shall be removed by chemical means and native grass prairie seeds planted.	\$5,000
Monument Stabilization	Immediate	SCHS/LRE Parks	Loose and missing stones will be replaced and stabilized by a masonry expert.	\$500
Plaque Replacement	Immediate	SCHS/LRE Parks	The existing concrete and granite plaques will be removed and replaced with local stone.	\$2,000
Tree Plantings	Immediate	LRE Parks	When feasible, 2-3 trees conducive to the restored prairie will be planted.	\$200
Interpretive Signage	Pending	SCHS	Additional signage may be added on the regional story of the Ho-Chunk Nation.	\$3,000 per panel
Art Installation	Pending	SCHS/ Ho-Chunk Nation	Partnership with Ho-Chunk Nation and artist to design an art piece to be permanently placed on -site.	TBD
Easements/Land Acquisition	Future	SCHS/LRE Parks	When feasible, property shall be acquired surrounding the memorial through easements or land acquisition.	TBD



Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreement

Property Map



