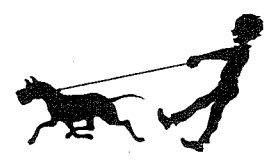




Dane County Parks

Always in Season

PRAIRIE MORaine PARK
Approved Master Plan Report
August 2002



Resolution No. ___2002-03

Approving the Master Plan for Prairie Moraine Park

In 1993 the Dane County Board passed Resolution No. 146, 1993-94; that transferred land from Badger Prairie Hospital and Home to the Dane County Park Commission. The park offers an outstanding example of a glacial feature known as a terminal moraine, provides a segment of the Ice Age Trail corridor, and has an off leash pet exercise area. Use of the park as a pet exercise area has far surpassed the parks department expectations; as a result, Dane County Parks initiated a master planning process in 2000 to attempt to resolve issues that have arose as public use of the park increased.

The plan has now been completed and the Dane County Parks Commission request the approval of the Master Plan for Prairie Moraine Park. This Master Plan will assist in providing future direction for acquisition, development and operation for one of Dane County's busiest parks.

An extensive public outreach program was conducted which included four public meetings and many additional interviews and meetings with stakeholders, park staff, area landowners, volunteers and special interest groups.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Dane County Board of Supervisors adopts the Master Plan for Prairie Moraine Park as a guide for future acquisition, development and operation.

Be It Further Resolved, That the County Board of Supervisors thanks the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, National Park Service, Advocates for Prairie Moraine, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and all of the citizens and local officials for their time and effort in commenting and formulating the project plan.

Submitted By _____

Approved by the Park Commission 8/28/02 (6/0)

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Executive Summary

The concept for creating Prairie Moraine Park began when the Ice Age Trail Corridor was developed. Prairie Moraine Park is now one of the County's most used park facilities. The extreme amount of use as an off leash dog exercise area has resulted in the completion of this Master Plan. The plan is an effort to address environmental and user group issues and concerns.

The concept of the design process has been to provide recreational opportunities for all park users without generating negative impacts to the site. The program to complete this plan has entailed more than two years of meeting with the public, neighboring property owners, special interest groups, and park users.

Project objectives were formulated based on input provided and information gathered throughout the planning process. They are in no particular order of importance.

Objective One

Create additional off leash areas in the park and within the local region to lessen negative impacts to the park.

Objective Two

Protect significant natural and geologic resources within the park, including protection of desirable open viewsheds.

Objective Three

Provide sufficient designated parking areas for park users that does not exceed capacity limits.

Objective Four

Continually monitor and maintain positive relationships with neighboring property owners.

Objective Five

Create a park environment that allows co-existence of off leash pet exercise areas, Ice Age Trail corridor, and vegetative restoration efforts.

A comprehensive site inventory of the location, historic, natural, geologic, hydrologic, vegetative, and viewshed components of the site was completed. Recommended park improvements based on public input, site inventory research, and park staff experience including parking lot, interior park fencing, trails, site amenities, and plans for the 911 tower site are discussed. Following is a management plan that considers trails, vegetation, signage, the 911 tower, and volunteer group possibilities.

Acquisition projects are discussed that would expand dog exercise areas to the south of the existing park boundary; and facilitate future Ice Age Trail development north and east of the park. The County only purchases land from willing sellers.

The overall conclusion of this report finds that the intense use of this site requires implementation of the plan as soon as possible to avoid negative environmental impacts to the park.

I. Introduction

The concept for creating Prairie Moraine Park began when the Ice Age Trail Corridor was developed. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST) is one of eight National Scenic Trails in the United States, and its purpose is to highlight and preserve Wisconsin's glacial history. The Ice Age Trail was authorized as a National Scenic Trail in 1980. It is part of a very select family of trails of which there are only seven other Scenic Trails in the National Trails System, including the Appalachian Trail and Pacific Crest Trail. The trail originated in 1958 when the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, state and local units of government, and others began to work toward creating a 1,200 mile footpath that follows the last great glacial advance left some 15,000 years ago. When completed the trail will connect 31 of Wisconsin's 72 counties and wind through some of the world's finest examples of glacial features such as ice walled lake plains, drumlins, eskers, kames, kettle ponds, tunnel channels, and moraines. Today approximately half the trail is open to use.

Recognizing the significance of the Ice Age NST, the State of Wisconsin designated it a State Scenic Trail in 1987. Dane County also incorporated the Ice Age NST as a principal element of the Park and Open Space Plan in 1987 and reaffirmed its commitment to the trail in the 2001-2005 Park and Open Space Plan update.

The location of the Ice Age NST corridor in Dane County was identified in the late 1980's and approved by the Wisconsin DNR in 1992. One of the primary objectives of the trail is to follow the terminal moraine left by the last glacial advance. This is the same moraine that traverses through Prairie Moraine Park, and it is one of the trail's highlights.

Prairie Moraine Park has become one of the busiest parks in the Dane County Park system. Currently, primary use of the park is an off-leash dog exercise area. In 1997, Dane County Parks prepared a planning report for the park to investigate how the Ice Age Trail (IAT) corridor, significant natural resources, and recreational opportunities would co-exist within the park boundary.

Since the initial report, use of the park as a pet exercise area has far exceeded the parks department expectations. As Prairie Moraine Park was being developed, very few dog exercise areas existed in the United States; therefore, Dane County Parks planning and development efforts could almost have been considered experimental. Evidence of negative environmental impacts, questions regarding how much of the site should be designated as off-leash, and lack of parking have been some of the concerns that have materialized from the high volume of park use. In response, Dane County Parks initiated a more involved master planning effort in 2000 to attempt to resolve issues that have arose as public use of the park increased.

II. Concept

The intent of this planning process has been to accommodate both IAT and pet exercise user needs while preserving and protecting geologic and natural resources within the park. This same concept would apply to additional lands acquired for park expansion adjacent to the park.

III. Program

Neighbors, dog owners, IAT representatives, and the general public have been active in the planning process throughout; and have provided feedback to assist with the development of the plan. Along with periodic face to face meetings, and phone conversations with interested parties since the initial report was completed; meetings have been held starting in June of 2000 with representatives from Advocates for Dogs at Prairie Moraine, and again in August of 2000 with IAT representatives.

Dane County Parks has had numerous contacts with the Wesner family to discuss issues related to being an adjacent property owner to the park. A meeting was held in 2001 with the Wesner's and other adjoining neighbors to answer questions and listen to concerns. Two informational meetings on the vegetation and glacial history of the site resulted as a follow up to the meetings with the neighbors. At a meeting held in September of 2001, Lee Clayton, a geologist with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, and co-author of "Pleistocene Geology of Dane County, Wisconsin" spoke on the geology of Prairie Moraine Park. In February of 2001, there was another public meeting held and a decision was made to tour the park with any interested parties to discuss trail and other planning issues. A site tour with IAT representatives and dog advocates was conducted in March of 2001.

In January of 2002, a public informational meeting was held to present the draft Master Plan and explain recommended improvements. A meeting summary is presented under Appendix 1. It was evident that there were additional comments/input that were not heard at this meeting due to time constraints; therefore, two additional public informational meetings were held in February, including one on site. Meeting summaries are presented under Appendix 2 and 3.

The program for the Master Plan was developed through the above mentioned meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to develop a better understanding of the needs of the different user groups and of the natural and geologic resources of the site. A list of criteria considered to be very important to development of the Master Plan was generated from the public meetings and is presented under appendix 4.

. Project Objectives

During the previously outlined public participation process; a general list of short and long term goals was developed prior to writing the draft Master Plan report. (Appendix 5) Based on the most recent public information meetings and input, site observations, and discussion by parks staff; a list of project objectives was formulated as follows. They are listed in no particular order of importance.

Objective One

Create additional off leash areas in the park and within the local region to lessen negative impacts to the park.

Objective Two

Protect significant natural and geologic resources within the park, including protection of desirable open viewsheds.

Objective Three

Provide sufficient designated parking areas for park users that does not exceed capacity limits.

Objective Four

Continually monitor and maintain positive relationships with neighboring property owners.

Objective Five

Create a park environment that allows co-existence of off leash pet exercise areas, Ice Age Trail corridor, and vegetative restoration efforts.

V. Site Inventory

LOCATION

Prairie Moraine Park is located in the Town of Verona, on CTH PB; about 1.5 miles south of the STH 18-151/CTH PB interchange. The park's proximity to the growing southwest corner of the Madison metro area has made this an extremely popular destination for people seeking off-leash pet exercise areas.

HISTORY

The exact history of this park is uncertain; however, from County records and interviews with local townspeople, the following is known to have occurred.

A leper colony consisting of a house, building, and woodshed existed on the site during the late 1800's to early 1900's. Leprosy was a disease that was caused by infectious bacteria and resulted in massive destruction of skin tissue. People who had (or were suspected to have) the disease were banished to "leper colonies". During this time period the property was owned by Dane County Hospital and Home. The area was used as a leper colony until the late 1920's or early 30's.

From the 30's to the 70's the land was relatively unused except for farming and livestock grazing purposes. In 1970 a 911 communication tower was established on the east side of the site. The tower is still being used and the facility may be expanded in the future if conditions warrant.

In 1993, the land was transferred by resolution (Appendix 6) from the hospital to Dane County Parks "for park and open space purposes, as a corridor for the IAT, and to relocate the Dane County Conservation League's conservation programs to the site."

In 1995, the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation (IAPTF) and Dane County Parks co-wrote a grant to develop the IAT corridor through the park. The 1997 Master Plan was the result of that grant. One of the original objectives of this Master Plan was to provide an off leash pet exercise area. Use of the park for this purpose rapidly increased, and an Advocates for Dogs at Prairie Moraine was formed in the Fall of 2000. The first newsletter from the group is presented under Appendix 7.

NATURAL FEATURES

The site inventory for geology, hydrology and drainage, soils, and vegetation that was completed under the 1997 Master Plan is still pertinent for this report; and therefore will be reused for this planning effort.

Geology

The following section on Geology was provided by Lee Clayton, Geologist, from the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey.

During the Ice Age, the great North American ice sheet grew and then melted away dozens of times, reaching as far west as the Rockies, as far north as the Arctic Ocean, east to the Atlantic, and south to the Ohio and Missouri Rivers. Each glaciation lasted several tens of thousands years, and each of the intervening warm periods lasted several thousand years. The last of these glacial events was the Wisconsin Glaciation, which culminated about 20,000 years ago. The ice had melted back out of the state by about 11,000 years ago and finally disappeared from central Canada about 5,000 years ago.

The southern-most extent of the ice sheet is here marked by the Prairie Moraine. In Dane County, the moraine extends from the Wisconsin River near Prairie du Sac, through Cross Plains, to Brooklyn.

To the south of the moraine the valley sides are made of sandstone of the St. Peter Formation, and the flatter hilltops are capped with limestone of the Platteville Formation, all overlain by a few feet of soil. This is part of the Driftless Area, which apparently was never glaciated. To the north of the moraine, the valleys were clogged and the sandstone and limestone were buried under many feet of glacial debris-clay, silt, sand, and gravel carried here by the glacier.

Prairie Moraine Park could be the best place in the Midwest to view a moraine. A moraine is a ridge of glacial debris that accumulates at the edge of a glacier when the glacier has stabilized.

Its edge remains in one position because it is melting back as fast as the ice is moving forward, allowing debris to melt out of the ice and accumulate as a ridge. The moraine here is 30-50' high and 300' wide. It is steepest on the north side where it was banked up against the glacier, and it is less steep on its south side where mud and other debris flowed and tumbled down off the glacier. Boulders are conspicuous on the south flank of the moraine but are absent on the base of the moraine southward through the Driftless Area to the Mississippi. Boulders of far traveled rock are abundant from the moraine northward. Some rock types can be traced back to their source around Hudson Bay.

The area around the parking lot at Prairie Moraine Park slopes gently up to the moraine and is underlain by sand and gravel washed out of the glacier by small melt water streams. Outcrops of St. Peter sandstone can be seen farther east between the moraine and the south park boundary. Low lying billowy mounds of glacial debris occur between the moraine and the north park boundary. The moraine is breached by a gorge half way between the tower and the parking lot; it was eroded by water from a glacial lake that suddenly drained north of the park.

Soils

The following is a list of soils that are found within the park boundary according to the "Soil Survey of Dane County, Wisconsin", authored by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service.

Mapping Symbol	Soil Name	Slope	Characteristic
BaB2	Basco Silt Loam	2-6%	Eroded
BaC2	Basco Silt Loam	6-12%	Eroded
DnB	Dodge Silt Loam	2-6%	
DnC2	Dodge Silt Loam	6-12%	Eroded
DoC2	Dodge and Kidder Soils	6-12%	Eroded
DuC2	Dunbarton Silt Loam	6-12%	Eroded
EmC2	Elkmound Sandy Loam	6-12%	Eroded
EmD2	Elkmound Sandy Loam	12-20%	Eroded
KrE2	Kidder Soils	20-35%	Eroded
NeB2	New Glarus Silt Loam	2-6%	Eroded
NeC2	New Glarus Silt Loam	6-12%	Eroded
ScB	St. Charles Silt Loam	2-6%	
ScC2	St. Charles Silt Loam	6-12%	Eroded
SmB	Seaton Silt Loam	2-6%	

Overall soils on this site are relatively shallow and have varying water capacities. They rate as mostly having moderate limitations for building trails, however, the steeper slopes such as on the moraine hillside have a severe rating. In fact, all recreational uses are classified as having severe limitations on the moraine. Extreme care should be taken for any facility development that occurs in this area of the park.

Hydrology and Drainage

The terminal moraine traverses east-west; therefore water on the site drains north and south off the slopes. On the north it flows to the center of the moraine and then drains north off the site. On the south side, water flows southwest and southeast off the site.

Vegetation

Analysis of 1835 survey records and research done by John Curtis indicate this area was originally an oak savanna, or oak opening. Oak savannas are dominated by grasses and unevenly dispersed oak trees. Accounts from settlers describe the original savannas. One account states, "The burr oak openings, however, are among the most productive portions of the State, being beautifully adapted to the varied and picturesque surface of the country. Grouped here and there, like so many old orchards, on the summit of a gentle swell of land, or on the border of a marsh, prairie or lake, there is nothing in the whole catalogue of American sylvia that equals these Burr Oaks for the charming, homestead-like expressions they give to the landscape." Common species are the Burr Oak and White Oak, although Black Oak is also found in savannas, usually on sandier soils.

Oak savannas are the result of frequent fires that raged across the prairies. These fires rejuvenated the grasses and killed competing tree species. Only the oaks with their thick cork bark could survive. Settlement of Wisconsin resulted in the cessation of fires.

With the cessation, early succession species invaded the savannas. These species grew quickly without fire to control them and within a few decades wide open savannas were replaced with dense woods. This makes the existence of oak savanna at Prairie Moraine Park all the more important. The openness of the savanna also has another benefit at the park; it allows the shape and form of the moraine to easily be viewed.

On June 27, 1996, an inventory of the pasture species was done on site. A qualitative survey method was used to inventory approximately 65% of the dry prairie and exotic pasture species. A listing of the species inventoried is found under Appendix 8.

Viewsheds

Views of and from the terminal moraine are an outstanding attribute of the site. From the south, wide open views of the expansive moraine hillside are excellent. From atop the moraine, some of the views reach as far as twenty miles.

VI. Recommended Improvements

The overall goal of recommended improvements for the park is to improve the experience of users while protecting and preserving its resources. The improvements outlined below are the result of public input, site inventory research, and park staff experience. A graphic Master Plan of proposed improvements is presented under Appendix 9.

PARKING

A gravel parking lot currently exists in the southwest corner of the park. During weekends and favorable weather, this lot continually overflows onto Wesner Road. Because it is easier to park on the road than in the congested parking lot, more users continue to park on the road even as spots open up in the lot. The property owner at the end of the Wesner Road has had several negative experiences from park users using his driveway as a turn around.

In an attempt to better understand the amount of parking to provide for, Dane County Parks staff counted vehicles on weekends during sunny, mild weather in February and March of 2002. Cars were counted on four separate days at mid morning hours; 34 were the least amount of cars noted, and 52 were the highest. There were between 4 and 8 cars parked on road each time. There have been reports of as many as 90+ cars parked to use the dog exercise area during the summer months. This amount of cars greatly exceeds what can safely be parked there now. Congestion at the Wesner/PB intersection, dog safety outside the parking area, and the ability of emergency vehicles to access the area are all safety issues that illustrate a need to provide a more orderly parking scenario.

There appears to be consensus that the current amount of use should not be exceeded and there should not be additional spaces provided to increase user numbers. The question of what an acceptable capacity limit for the park has arose at several public meetings. Based on park user feedback and site observations, 50-60 cars would appear to be an acceptable capacity limit. Dane County Parks would continue to monitor user impacts to the park under the new parking capacity limits.

The proposed parking lot layout (Appendix 10) has 57 parking spaces and 3 accessible parking stalls. The lot will have 2 entry/egress points to lessen congestion. If funding is available, it is intended to pave and stripe the parking lot to insure orderly parking and allow a maximum capacity to be regulated. Initially, on street parking on Wesner Road would not be allowed and when the lot was full, park users would be required to return at another time.

If demand continues to exceed parking stalls provided, Dane County Parks would consider working with the Town of Verona to investigate the construction of a cul-de-sac and creation of approximately 8 angled parking stalls on the north side of Wesner Road. This measure would only be taken after further analysis as to whether the park could accommodate the additional use without negative impacts.

Other improvements proposed for the parking lot area include a 4-6' decorative board screening fence, a woven wire perimeter fence to keep dogs off roads, two double gated entrances into the park staging area, message boards, and additional waste containers. It is also proposed the Ice Age Trail will have a separate entry point in the northwest corner of the parking lot. There would be two vehicle access gates into the park to allow maintenance of the park, such as hauling wood chips for mulching trails.

Future parking considerations may include creation of a separate Ice Age Trail parking area north of the park. If lands are acquired south of the park, an additional parking lot for dog exercise users would be considered to spread use out over more of the site and reduce wear and tear at the park entry points. Or, a second parking lot east of the gate on Wesner Road may be another alternative to reduce congestion at the park. Buffering issues and maintaining positive neighbor relations may necessitate this option be considered at a future time as conditions permit.

INTERIOR PARK FENCING

The issue of fencing within the park has generated more discussion than any other proposed improvement. The concept of a low fence as a physical barrier between the IAT and pet exercise area was also recommended in the 1997 Master Plan. Overall, there is not strong support for the installation of a fence that would separate on and off leash use of the park. The two primary reasons for opposition of the fence are:

1. Potential negative aesthetic impacts to the openness of the park.
2. There is sentiment that the fence is reducing the amount of useable off leash area.

There are two major issues that necessitate the need for the designation of on and off leash areas. First, Ice Age Trail users are entitled to use the trail corridor without encountering off leash dogs. Second, the steep slope of the moraine and erosive soils make this an unsuitable area for off leash pet exercise use.

The area available for off leash use would change little if at all with the installation of a fence. The fence would generally follow the same line as the existing blue boundary signs that are currently in place.

Dane County Parks will continue to monitor compliance of off leash rules in the park.

Construction of the fence would only take place if there is continuing evidence and complaints of off leash dogs outside the designated boundary.

At a minimum, a fence may be constructed off the north parking lot decorative fence to separate the proposed IAT trailhead from the pet exercise staging area immediately inside the double gate entries. Interior park fencing is intended to be 42-48" in height and be of the least visually obtrusive materials possible.

TRAILS

The off leash pet exercise trails would remain relatively unchanged. The only exception may involve moving the existing trail that travels through the oak savanna on the moraine to the south to avoid soil compaction and erosion over the root zones. The proposed trail system is shown on the graphic Master Plan.

The exact IAT alignment has yet to be determined. The trail's final alignment should be done in the field based on a coordinated effort between the Dane County Parks and Ice Age National Scenic Trail representatives. Also, Dane County Parks should consider requesting input from the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey to identify important, interpretable features, both on and off the site that the trail should highlight. There is a proposed overlook platform on top of the moraine, however details for the structure have not been finalized. Minimal visual impact is the greatest concern. Ice Age Trail tread widths are typically 24" wide and additional 12" clearing width on each side. Trail design must also be sensitive to the areas of native pasque flowers found on top of the moraine. The National Park Service, WDNR, and IAPTF have authored "A Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance" that explains facility design standards.

It should be noted that pet owners are entitled to use the IAT corridor provided their pets are on leash. If a fence is constructed, gates will be provided to allow dog owners access to the trails.

SITE AMENITIES

Throughout the planning process, there has been consensus between neighbors, pet owners, and IAT users to keep site development to a minimum. Other than the scenic overlook and amenities proposed around the parking lot, there will be no other proposed structural improvements at this time. Existing benches and picnic tables will remain. There may be the possibility of additional interpretive signage describing geology, land use history, and vegetation of the site.

Provision of water is a frequently requested site amenity. Due to the potential of transfer of disease by shared water areas; Dane County Parks will not provide water. Dog owners are encouraged to bring their own water on hot days or use one of the other dog exercise areas that has water access. (Yahara, Viking, Token Creek)

There has been some discussion of the addition of "dog playground" structures at the park. Because of the desired openness of the site and unique natural landscape; it is not recommended at this time to install "dog playground" structures; however they may be appropriate at another dog exercise location.

911 TOWER

Dane County Public Safety and Communications (DC PSC) was contacted in March to find out if there are any plans to change the tower facility. At this time, there are no expansion plans for the existing building or immediate plans to replace the tower with a taller one. It should be noted DC PSC does retain the right to expand or modify their facility as necessary.

VII. Management Plan

Management of Prairie Moraine Park is divided into three parts: trails, vegetation, and signage.

TRAILS

As with other segments within the County, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail would be managed through coordinated volunteer efforts and Dane County Parks.

Initially, most of the off leash pet exercise trails were mown grass. As use increased, many of the trails have shown tremendous wear and tear; and conversion to wood chips on all of the heavily traveled trails is occurring. Trails experiencing extreme use may require crushed limestone surfacing, however this is a costly, less flexible solution. It may be necessary to close the park during extremely wet periods and in the spring when the frost leaves the ground to prevent excessive soil compaction.

Trails should be a minimum of 6' in width to accommodate mowers and should avoid tree drip-line zones. Heavy traffic around larger trees; especially oaks, compacts the surface root zone and may eventually result in death of the tree. Trail development on steep slopes should "switchback" parallel to slopes whenever possible to avoid erosive gullies that are created by trails perpendicular to the slope. There has been some evidence of this occurring at various volunteer trails throughout the park.

VEGETATION

Vegetation management is divided into two categories; restoration and exotic species control. Three restorations are necessary on this site; the dry prairie, oak woods, and oak savanna. The area of savanna on the moraine, particularly the south slope, has been the primary focus of previous restoration efforts.

Oak savannas retain their open characteristics through frequent grass fires; therefore, burns are an important first step in savanna restoration. Fires burn dead grass which releases nutrients to the soil, opens the ground layer so sunlight can penetrate to warm the soil, and prepare soil for the early growth of savanna species. Fires also help control exotic species because they are less adapted to frequent fires, increasing native species ability to compete with exotics.

Prairie Moraine Park has been burned under the direction of the Dane County Parks Naturalist and a group of volunteers. Future burning and restoration efforts will continue at the park under the direction of the Naturalist as funding and availability of volunteer labor allows. More information regarding prairie burning can be found in "How to Manage Small Prairie Fires" authored by Wayne Pauly, Dane County Parks Naturalist.

Increased openness of the savanna is intended to stimulate the reserve seed bank in the soil and start production of dormant savanna species. Re-introduction of desired species may begin as the savanna's health increases. Final determination of plant species and planting type will be done by Dane County Parks staff along with volunteers.

Restoration of the oak woods is another important restoration effort. Clearing of the understory exotic species (buckthorn, honeysuckle) to increase light availability to the forest floor will stimulate native herbaceous ground layer growth. Dane County Parks Naturalist will monitor and provide guidance for restoration of the oak woods.

Restoration of the dry prairie can be done after exotic species are controlled to prevent them from spreading into the restored areas. Seven of the most prevalent species needing control are as follows: Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), thistles (*Carduus* spp.), Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*), Blue Grass (*Poa* spp.), and Sweet Clover (*Melilotus* spp)

Exotic plants out compete native species and typically form dense, monotypic plant communities that offer low wildlife habitat value. The establishment of dense colonies of Multiflora Rose is not compatible with an off leash dog exercise area. Wild parsnip causes a blister effect if juice from the plant contacts the skin and is exposed to sunlight. Larger plants or dense communities may require cutting and application of Round-Up to the stump to eradicate them. Burning controls many of the exotic species listed above. Recommendations for control of exotic species are based on the DNR Exotic Species Control Manual. Specific control techniques and timing will be under the direction of the Naturalist.

SIGNAGE

Being one of the heavier used parks in the County Park system; enforcement of rules clearly is an important issue to insure safety and enjoyment of the park. Dane County Parks has only one Park Ranger on staff weekends for the entire park system November through April. During the higher use months, May through October, the number increases to three. The Ranger responsible for Prairie Moraine Park is expected to monitor approximately half of the County geographically; therefore, time spent at any one park is limited.

Almost all park enforcement has been done historically by expecting user compliance to signage placed in the park by staff and volunteers. Signage is divided into four types:

1. Interpretive (Poetry, Geologic Significance Information, etc.)
2. Regulatory (On-Off Leash Boundary Signs)
3. Informational (Park Trail Map)
4. Directional (Arrow Sign)

Regulatory signs have been of most significance at the park in an effort to enforce boundaries and dog waste pick up rules. Regulatory signs can also detract from the aesthetics of the park; any signs placed in the park must first be approved by parks staff.

Currently; regulatory signage is the only barrier delineating on and off leash areas. As stated prior in the report; Dane County Parks will continue to monitor compliance of this rule to determine if constructing a fence is necessary. All park users are encouraged to remind dog owners who willingly or intentionally disobey the on leash rules that their actions may result in construction of a fence.

Regulatory signage has also been placed on the south side of Wesner Road to discourage users from encroaching on private property to the south. Also, signage and snow fencing has been used in an effort to discourage use of volunteer trails. Volunteer trails often traverse perpendicular to the slope and cause soil erosion. Park users should remain on designated trails to prevent soil erosion. Temporary barriers must be left in place until vegetation re-establishes on exposed soils. A suggestion was also made to place barriers at each end of volunteer trails, instead of one as has been the current practice.

As parking lot improvements are completed; informational signage should be placed at all entrances into the park identifying delineated use areas and park rules. These same signs should be placed at the proposed gates leading to the moraine overlook areas if a fence is constructed.

Possible interpretive signage may include geologic/viewshed information on top of the moraine, historical site information around building remnants, vegetation management information, and poetry.

Due to the high number of pet exercise users; it is recommended that interpretive signage regarding the significance of the terminal moraine and the history of the IAT be placed on the centrally relocated kiosk at the staging area. As previously discussed; Prairie Moraine Park offers an outstanding geological education opportunity. Lee Clayton, Geologist for the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey has stated Prairie Moraine Park is **THE** best place in the Midwest to view a moraine.

A second educational opportunity for the park could include signage explaining what the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is and why it exists at Prairie Moraine Park. Dane County Parks should work closely with the National Park Service to develop interpretive signage for the trail.

Interpretive signage should be placed throughout the park as funding/interest dictates.

Directional signage needs are limited at the park. Areas to consider may include where the mowed grass trails intersect the gravel access road to reinforce use of designated trails. In addition, directional arrows may be useful at sharp trail bends that have historically shown signs of "short cut" volunteer paths.

OTHER PARK MANAGEMENT/RECOMMENDATIONS

911 TOWER

The 911 tower should not have trails designed for pedestrian use within 150' for safety reasons. (falling ice) Regulatory signage delineating this buffer zone should be considered.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer efforts are encouraged at Dane County Parks. The formation of a "Friends of Prairie Moraine Park" group could help to shorten the length of time it takes to implement recommendations suggested in this planning report. Dollars for park improvements and land acquisition can be generated via fund raising events. Volunteers may also help park staff with the preparation of grant applications for additional dollars. It may be possible that a Friends group could raise money to fund a park supervisor position that could help selling park permits and enforcing park rules.

At the time of this report, there has still been evidence of segregation between the different user groups at public informational meetings. Formation of a single Friends group would be an excellent way to combine efforts and move ahead with improvements recommended in this plan. All volunteer efforts should be coordinated through Louise Goldstein, Adult Conservation Team Manager.

NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

Maintaining positive neighbor relationships is an ongoing task to consider for this park due to the high volume of users and traffic that is generated. If limited parking is allowed on the north side of Wesner Road, it must be done in a manner not to obstruct emergency vehicle access. Dane County Parks should continue to keep adjacent landowners involved in future planning processes.

WASTE COLLECTION SITES

There has been frequent requests for more dog waste collection barrels located on the north portion of the dog exercise area. Typically waste collection barrels are located in areas that allow truck access for pick up. Because of the high visibility of these collection sites, care should be taken to locate them in the least obtrusive manner.

VIII. Acquisition

Future acquisition of lands adjacent to Prairie Moraine Park will be considered for both IAT and pet exercise areas. Ice Age Trail proposed acquisition areas are generally to the north and east of the current boundaries (approximately 80 total acres) to allow for another parking area/trailhead and continuation of the trail to the southeast. Pet exercise proposed acquisition areas are generally to the south of the park (approximately 80 total acres) in less environmentally sensitive areas. Proposed park expansion areas are shown on the graphic Master Plan.

Requests for more acreage to be added to the park and for more dog exercise areas to be created in the local vicinity have been common throughout the planning process; these acquisition projects could help reduce congestion and negative impacts to the park. Acquisition is often a matter of opportunity. Dane County Parks only purchases lands from willing sellers. Identification of properties within an adopted Master Plan document allows a landowner the opportunity to sell their land to the County if they choose to and makes the property eligible for some funding programs.

Many of these grant funding programs provide both State and Federal dollars under the Wisconsin DNR Stewardship Local Assistance Programs, the Recreational Trails Program, and the Land and Water Conservation Program. Dane County Parks also administers a Conservation Fund Grant Program that provides monies for approved park and open space acquisition projects to:

- Towns, villages, or cities in Dane County.
- Non-profit organizations with 501.c.3. status.
- Other governmental units in Dane County (School Districts, Lake Districts, Native American governments) .

Another possible source of funding would include private donations.

Dane County Parks has actively helped several area communities (Sun Prairie, Middleton, Waunakee) with development of their own dog exercise areas. Given the overwhelming demand and use of Prairie Moraine Park as a dog exercise facility; adjacent communities such as the City and Town of Verona, and the City of Madison, should consider development of additional facilities within the region. These may be able to be partially funded using the prior mentioned grant programs.

IX. Conclusion

Dane County Parks has been a pioneer in the area of developing dog exercise areas. Taking this leadership role has resulted in some unforeseen issues due to a lack of dog exercise area information available. Development of these facilities has been an evolutionary process and all involved parties have been learning along the way. Dane County Parks has attempted to revise and amend their management strategies for these facilities as conditions have dictated.

Now that the dog exercise program has been in place for several years, Dane County Parks should begin to more closely analyze user information and environmental impacts of these sites. This information could potentially be gathered by utilizing donated planning assistance from students at the University of Wisconsin Landscape Architecture program.

Carrying out park improvements identified in this planning report will satisfy the outlined project objectives. Because of the extreme popularity of the site as an off leash dog exercise area; expansion of this park or creation of another park within the local region is critical to lessen negative impacts to this unique site. Dane County Parks should complete an inventory and study of all existing park lands and determine if any other park sites could potentially accommodate off leash pet exercise areas. Park users should encourage other local units of government to consider provision of pet exercise areas. As the IAT is developed, sensitive trail design on the moraine is important to allow park users access to the scenic view areas without harming the resource. The environmental sensitivity and geologic significance of this park site call for implementation of this plan as soon as funding allows.

Appendix one

Prairie Moraine Park

Public Informational Meeting, January 17th, 2002

Re: Meeting Summary

On January 17th a public informational meeting to discuss the draft Master Plan for improvements to Prairie Moraine Park was held. It was intended to be the last in a series of public informational meetings for the master planning process.

The meeting began with Mick Kennedy, LTE Park Planner, giving an overview of the planning process and the written draft Master Plan report. Chris James, Park Planner, then followed with an explanation of improvements illustrated on the graphic draft Master Plan.

The meeting was then open to the participants for discussion. The following is a summarization of issues/concerns discussed in no particular order.

-The reason for a fence was discussed in length. The question was asked that we should calculate the number of Ice Age Trail users in comparison to dog exercise users to determine who gets to use the greatest portion of the site.

-A participant repeatedly asked for "quantifiable" evidence of erosion as proof that there has been negative impacts to the site.

-The idea of a proposed cul-de-sac turn around on Wesner Road was discussed. Lee Wesner said he did not like the idea.

Note: Lee has since told me during a recent phone call he may be in favor, and to leave it on the plan.

-There was a great amount of concern regarding the aesthetic impact of the fence.

-Several people spoke on behalf of the Ice Age Trail users and stated the significance of this site and the extreme importance of wise trail development/land use to protect it.

The meeting ended by agreeing another meeting should be held to further resolve/discuss issues concerns. It was also suggested Dane County Parks should have a meeting on site at the park to discuss the draft Master Plan improvements on site with park users.

Appendix two

Prairie Moraine Park Master Planning Process
Re: On-Site Public Input Meeting February 23, 2002

On Saturday, February 23, 2002, Chris James from Dane County Parks displayed the draft Prairie Moraine Park Master Plan from 9:00am to 11:00am and solicited feedback for improvements proposed at the park. The following is a compilation of comments gathered in no particular order of importance and does not include responses:

- More waste receptacles should be added to the north side loop. Many people don't pick up after their dogs on this loop because of the distance to drop off the bags.
- There should be more tree planting done to provide shade for dogs, screening of highway.
- Regarding soil erosion on the slope of the moraine, a person suggested we contact David Fischer at the Land Conservation Extension office to do an on site soil analysis to determine soil erosion issues.
- A suggestion was made to hold our next public input meeting on Thursday in a similar manner to a County Board meeting where we would have each participant sign in and list the topic they would like to speak on.
- Several people noted that they loved the location of the park and scenery. Heard several comments that "it's better than just a flat open field."
- Very few people were in favor of the fence, primarily for aesthetic issues.
- There was strong support of buying lands to the south to expand the facility.
- Slightly widening the gravel shoulder on the north side of Wesner Road was discussed as a means to accommodate angle parking on the road.
- All said capacity parking does not deter them from using the park because they have traveled considerable distance to get to the park.
- A suggestion was made to make the County Parks website more current and interactive to give users information on current topics in the department, such as the Prairie Moraine Park Master Planning Process, with opportunities to provide feedback on-line.

Appendix three

Prairie Moraine Park
Public Informational Meeting, February 28, 2002

Re: Meeting Summary

On January 17th, 2002 a public informational meeting was held at the Verona Public Library to discuss the draft Master Plan for Prairie Moraine Park. The meeting's discussion was dominated by questions and concerns regarding the installation of a fence to separate Ice Age Trail users from the off-leash dog exercise users. In an attempt to solicit comment from a wider range of viewpoints, a second meeting was set up on February 28th, 2002 at the Verona Public Library.

The meeting began with Mick Kennedy, LTE Dane County Park Planner, giving a brief overview of the written draft Master Plan report document. Chris James, Dane County Park Planner followed with an overview of the graphic Master Plan and explained proposed improvements. There was a short question and answer period to insure all meeting participants understood the details of the proposed improvements.

Each meeting participant was then given an opportunity to comment on issues/concerns with the draft Master Plan. Time was limited to approximately 5 minutes for each speaker in the interest of hearing from everyone present. Comments and discussion was held until after everybody had an opportunity to speak.

The following is a compilation of issues/concerns in no particular order of importance:

- There are too many dogs, too many people in such a small area, the County needs to develop more dog parks.
- The scenery is the most important aspect of the park, we love the terrain, flowers, trees.
- There needs to be areas in the park where dogs are under control, as well as off-leash.

- Dane County Parks needs to do a more detailed estimate of the number of park users, and project future users based on anticipated growth patterns of the surrounding municipalities. Park expansion/planning should be based on this planning effort. I am concerned about the lack of planning that went into this draft text report. There needs to be more trails within the off-leash area, more area to spread out. The entire site should be off-leash.
- We need more dog parks.
- There needs to be more off-leash areas. We already have all kinds of areas we can walk our dogs on-leash, that's not the issue. We need more places to go and take our dogs off leash.
- We don't need more off-leash trails in the park, the density of trails is just right now. If we add more trails, it will cause more overuse, erosion problems.
- When the orange temporary fencing is put up to stop volunteer trails, it should be put up at both the start and end of the volunteer trail. People still walk up to the fence from the open end and then just go around it. Current efforts to control volunteer trails is inadequate.
- There needs to be signage at the parking lot indicating capacity limits, and alternate sites to go to.
- Ice Age Trail use and dog exercise use are not compatible.
- The signs do not work now, we still often see dogs off leash on top of the moraine. Most dog users are rude when we remind them it is an on-leash area.
- When use was not signed, there was a tremendous amount of erosion and soil compaction on the trail that follows the top of the moraine.
- The wood chips are a great idea, we need more though, all trails should have wood chips.
- There needs to be more of a presence from the County Parks at this site, it is being overused and used inappropriately and there is nobody there to enforce rules of the park.
- We are loving the park to death.
- Erosion is bad, it is a concern, both user groups need to work together, what we are doing now is not working, parking is an issue, think about the long term planning instead of the quick fix.
- The park is being overused now, don't expand the parking!

-There is too much population using the park, signs are not working .

-If more dog parks are created, make them interesting places to go, not just flat open fields.

-If a Friends group were formed, we would be willing to check dog tags and sell permits. Can the Friends group raise money to fund a position that would supervise the park?

-Parking is a big issue. Dane County Parks needs to determine exactly how many users/cars they want in the park that is appropriate, and then reconfigure the parking area to that exact number of designated stalls. This information is not available now, so you (Dane County Parks) should not do any parking lot improvements until you (Dane County Parks) have it. When the lot is at capacity, users will have to return at a different time.

-The Master Plan is great, we need to start moving ahead with improvements to the park now.

-A brief presentation was made that illustrated what the historical land covers were in Dane County, ie: prairie, savanna, etc., and how this is how the land has existed for centuries, if we tamper with or disturb these systems that have been in place for so long, we will create irreversible damages.

-It's really very simple, there is a problem with overuse, and a lack of personnel to patrol the park, all you (Dane County Parks) need to do is raise the cost of dog permits to deter some use and raise money for more parks/supervision.

An open forum discussion took place for the last 20 minutes of the meeting on issues/concerns that were brought up prior. There was still hostility evident between some off-leash dog users and Ice Age Trail users. Overall, there seemed to be consensus that some people did not enjoy having dogs run up to them off-leash, especially small children.

The meeting attendants were informed this would be the last public informational meeting for park improvements, and it would most likely go to the Park Commission in March for consideration. Chris James handed out a business card to all meeting attendants and stated to call if they wanted a copy of the draft Master Plan text report or to provide additional comment.

The meeting ended at 9:10 pm.

Appendix four

- Desire to learn more about the site from all users
- Neighborhood concerns about traffic and parking, hours of park, policing of park, over use of park, privacy, condition of the site, impact on their property values
 - More cars than cows
 - Educate people about the natural history of the site
 - Understand the geology of the site
 - Map native species
 - Define actual IAT on the site
 - Erosion control, proper trail use
 - Park to remain open to dogs
 - Provide for one or two access points to the ridge "On leash" areas of the trail from the lower "off leash" trails
 - Provide for the comfort and safety of park users
 - With in our plans for vegetative management, leave/create some areas for shade
 - What about water supply
 - What about bathrooms
 - Look at how waterways cross or intersect trails
 - Buffers for existing neighborhood
 - Trail loop at tower area
 - Whats being done to control dog to dog transmission of disease
 - Signage issues, at entry, notice boards, information areas, education etc.
 - Hazardous situation turning off of Hwy PB
 - Need to eliminate the volunteer paths that occur through education and peer pressure
 - Eliminate volunteer trails up the slopes
 - Short term need for vegetative management, especially of noxious weeds
 - Need for more parking
 - Safer parking and entry problem
 - Separate parking/control points for dog users and IAT users
 - Information kiosk
 - Education and management information area/ volunteer education on natural history
 - Explore option of fence to separate on leash and off leash areas
 - Better dog waste pick-up
 - Parking and access points
 - Facility improvements
 - Further land acquisitions
 - Long and short term goals for management, acquisitions, education, and protection
 - Permanent trail routs
- Paths need to meander more
- Protection and enhancement of view shed
- Promote sense of ownership by all users
- Trails need to be better defined
- Educate, inventory, manage, and protect
- Evaluation process
- Fees
- Volunteer opportunities
- Blue bird trails
- Add more dog exercise areas locally to take pressure off park
- Have more tours of the site
- Emphasize educational component i.e. school groups etc
- Dog user group continued use
- Consider capacity
- Limit development, concessions etc
- Acquisition for natural aspect of site as well
- To enhance the natural beauty of the site,
- To accommodate larger off leash area

Appendix five

Short-term goals

- Solution for parking overflow
- Have other local units of governments establish dog exercise areas
- Inform users of other dog exercise opportunities
- Exotic species control
- Close or relocate trails in environmentally sensitive areas
- DO NO HARM!** This should be Number 1 priority, people, dogs, site
- Establish Friends group
- Beautify entrance areas, improve ingress and egress, and minimize socializing areas by gates
- Eliminate volunteer trails
- Upgrade existing trails
- Get out information
- Early trail maintenance

Long-term goals

- Consider Capacity
- Develop Vegetation Management plan
- Acquisition of adjacent parcels, for both IAT and Pet Exercise issues
- Encourage other nearby municipalities to build pet exercise areas
- Identify gravesites from Leper Colony
- Neighbor concerns
- Safe access to site from Hwy PB, Added turn lanes
- Slower speed limit sign

ppendix Six

TRANSFER OF LAND FROM BADGER PRAIRIE HEALTH CARE CENTER TO THE DANE COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION AND RELOCATE DANE COUNTY CONSERVATION LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Badger Prairie Health Care Center currently has jurisdiction over approximately 155 acres of land located in sections 25 and 26, in the Town of Verona. Dane County has a 911 tower located at this site, but no other development has taken place. Badger Prairie Health Care Center has no current uses for the site, and anticipates no future uses or needs for the site.

The Dane County Parks Commission desires to manage the property for park and open space purposes, as a corridor for the Ice Age Trail, and to relocate the Dane County Conservation League's conservation programs to the site.

The Public Safety Communications Department desires to retain access and use of the property for current and future communications projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that land owned by Dane County in Sections 25 and 26 T&R R&E, Town of Verona be transferred from Badger Prairie Health Care Facility to the Dane County Parks Commission in accord with Wisc. Stats. 27.05(3)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the land be managed by the Dane County Park Commission as a corridor for the Ice Age Trail and that the conservation activities of the Dane County Conservation League be relocated to this site, with the exact location of these activities to be agreed upon mutually by the Dane County Parks Commission and the Dane County Conservation League

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that portions of the property be made available to the Emergency Management Department and Public Safety Communication Department for current and future public safety communication needs, and that facilities, buildings or communications equipment constructed be considerate of the parkland environment, the presence of the Ice Age Trail and be consistent with a master plan of this property, which shall be co-developed by the Dane County Parks Commission and the Dane County Emergency Management and Public Safety Communication Departments by January 1, 1995.

Personnel/Finance Committee and Park Commission recommend adoption of Res. 146 with the following amendment: change the final resolved clause to read "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that portions of the property be made available to the Emergency Management Department and Public Safety Communication Department for current and future public safety communication needs, and that facilities, buildings or communications equipment constructed be consistent with the parkland environment, the Ice Age Trail and with the master plan of this property, which shall be developed jointly by the Dane County Park Commission and the Dane County Emergency Management and Public Safety Communication Departments by January 1, 1995, and approved by the Dane County Board of Supervisors." Motion carried.

RES. 152, 1993-94

AUTHORIZE INCREASE OF OVERTIME FUNDING

As of 8/6/93 the Highway and Transportation Department has paid out \$187,916 in overtime out of \$205,200 authorized. To arrive at the estimated overtime for 1993 is difficult because of unpredictable weather and trying to determine what the pay-out of unused comp time will be at the end of the contract period. A comparison of the budgeted amounts and the revised estimates is as follows:

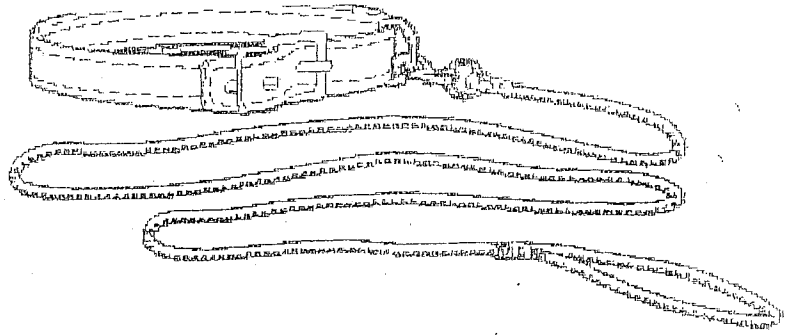
Fund	Program	Budgeted Amounts	Revised Estimate	Increased Amount
General	OWI	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 0
	Parking Ramp	100	100	0
		\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 0
Highway	Administration	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,000
	Transit/Environmental	0	0	0
	CTH Maintenance	77,000	84,000	7,000
	State & Local Services	120,000	180,000	60,000
	Fleet & Facilities	2,000	6,000	4,000
	QTH Construction	0	5,000	5,000
		<u>\$205,000</u>	<u>\$282,000</u>	<u>\$ 77,000</u>
GRAND TOTALS		<u>\$205,200</u>	<u>\$282,200</u>	<u>\$ 77,000</u>

The primary reasons for these increased amounts are as follows:

\$ 1,000 Administration: Overtime required to facilitate payroll completion on Monday rather than Tuesday and extra time spent on 1994 budget preparation.

\$ 7,000 CTH Maintenance: Unusually high overtime for winter maintenance this year. Total winter maintenance overtime hours (paid and comp time) through 8/6/93 are 1,437 hours more than at the same time in 1992.

\$60,000 State & Local Services: Unusually high overtime for winter maintenance this year and WisDOT requiring more weekend work than in prior years. Total winter maintenance overtime hours (paid and comp time) through 8/6/93 are 3,123 hours more than at the same time in 1992. This increased cost is totally reimbursed by WisDOT and/or Local Municipalities, etc.



NEWSLETTER OF THE PRAIRIE MORAINE OFF-LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREA

We finally did it; the first edition of the Prairie Moraine off leash dog exercise area Newsletter is out! We hope you enjoy the articles, facts, tidbits and fun that make up this new information source. To find out more about the Advocates for Prairie Moraine or if you want to get involved in this park please visit our website at www.dogpark.f2s.com or call Kristin at 277-8541. We hope you enjoy the newsletter!

WHAT THE HECK IS THE MASTER PLAN?

*Prairie Moraine Park Master Plan Presentation Held January 17, and February 28, 2002
As written by an attendee's observations*

As promised by the signs posted at the park, a public meeting was held in the Verona Public Library on Thursday, January 17, 2002 to present the Master Plan for Prairie Moraine Park. Dane County Parks officials distributed a Draft Master Plan Report and presented maps and drawings indicating the proposed changes to the park. Based on prior public meetings and meetings with interested parties, the Master Plan provides for increased parking, two double-gated entrances/exits to the dog exercise area, and a third entrance to the hiking/on-leash area of the park. Additionally, the hiking/on-leash area of the park may be separated from the off-leash exercise area by a fence. There was much discussion regarding the fence, with some attendees expressing that a fence would detract from the aesthetics of the park. Others felt that the fragile nature of the section of the park, which is part of the National Ice Age Trail, requires that preservation measures, including a fence, need to be taken. Many of you who participated in our survey last summer expressed an interest in having running water at the park; this is not included in the Master Plan. Finally, there was a discussion about alternate sites for dog exercise areas. Some of you may be familiar with the shooting range property owned by Dane County which is located on Range Trail Road between County Highway M and Sunset. The Advocates for Dogs at Prairie Moraine will be talking with county officials to try to further the use of this site as a dog exercise area. The meeting concluded with an understanding that further discussion of the Master Plan would be beneficial. Copies of the Master Plan are available from the Dane County Parks Department and once the Master Plan is finished, it will be posed on our website.



Once you and your dog get to the off-leash dog area of the park, it is tempting to just stand back and let your dog run. But everybody will have a much more rewarding time if you observe some basic rules. Dogparks aren't a right, they're a privilege. - please don't let bad behavior ruin things for everyone else.

Always keep your eye on your dog. Mischief can happen quickly.

Never leave your dog unattended.

Always clean up after your dog. This dog park provides Oops Scoops, so please use them.

Make sure your dog is current on shots and has a valid Dane County Park license.

It is recommended that you do not bring dogs younger than 4 months to a dogpark. They won't have had all the necessary inoculations that allow them to play safely with other animals.

Don't bring a female dog in heat. Spayed/neutered animals are recommended.

Make sure you have control over your dog.

Keep your dog on-leash in the parking lot. This is both respectful to other park users and safer for your dog.

If your dog becomes unruly or plays rough, leash him and leave immediately.

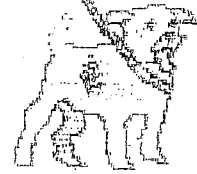
If you have an aggressive dog it is best to keep him on leash.

If you bring children to a dogpark, supervise them closely.

Don't smoke or eat while at the dogpark. Cigarette butts and food wrappers are tempting treats to dogs, but bad for them.

Always observe all of the rules posted at Prairie Moraine.

Written with assistance by www.dogpark.com



A Round of Apaws

The Advocates for Dogs at Prairie Moraine would like to thank all of the wonderful businesses that donated items for our fundraisers last year. With their help and your generosity, we raised over \$500.00, which has been put into a fund at Dane County Parks for future Prairie Moraine off-leash dog exercise park improvements. Some of the money went toward the website, and a little bit was used for postage and printing. Please patronize these businesses, and thank them for their donations. Their contributions make improvements at Prairie Moraine possible!

BIG WAGS TO:

HappyDogz doggie day care
Walmart

Cat's Here Dogs There

Benjamin Plumbing

Animal Hospital of Verona

Star Cinema

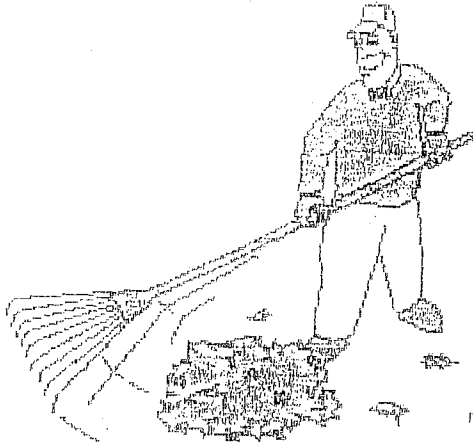
Mounds Pet Food Warehouse

Borders West

Dog's Best Friend

Victor Allen's Coffee

In addition, special thanks go out to Beth Jenks for Bailey's Mom's home made biscuits!



**This is such a great park
But we need your help**

This park is great. The dogs love it. The people love it. Best of all, we get a lot of country just outside the bustle of the city. The park offers nicely mulched trails, great views, and the ambiance, well . . . need we say more?

All of these amenities aren't natural though; nature sometimes needs a helping hand from volunteers. Therefore, the Advocates for Prairie Moraine, with the help of other park users, get together on the second Saturday of every month to perform the needed work at the park. We mulch trails, perform necessary removal of non-native species (which take over the landscape and reduce the area for dogs to run) and yes, we pick up poop. The reward for all this hard work is that the park maintains the high quality we all enjoy and have come to expect and the dogs and their people stay safe.

Unfortunately, it takes a lot of people power to be able to do all of the things that should get done and we run out of steam to do as much as we would like. So, again this year the Second Saturday Club is recruiting volunteers to help with park maintenance.

For more information about the Advocates for Prairie Moraine, the Second Saturday Club or any other information about this park, visit our website at www.dogpark.f2s.com or call Kristin at 277-8541.

at a great sight
we come over the crest
I wait for the blinker
Wow, am I blessed!

The dog park is great
We go all the time
I sniff and I run
Yea, it's playtime!

Whether it's gravel or mulch
It doesn't matter to me
My paws just keep moving
Faster and faster, I'm free!

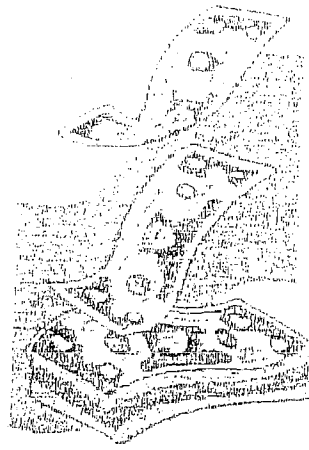
I am most excited
When I meet up with friends
We romp and we play
Especially on weekends!

There is a secret place
Where I always get a snack
It gives me lots of energy
For the trek back

I like to pretend
The park is all mine
And I let others come there
To bark and to whine

Whenever I am lonely
I think of the park
It makes me so happy
I can't help but bark

Ode to the dog park
And the wonderful space
Dane County has given me
To treasure and embrace



The fine for not picking up after your dog is \$120 (YIKES!)
Failing to clean up after your pooch is not only costly, it
promotes disease. Because Ooops Scoops provided are free at
the front gate it makes the task easy.

When we all cooperate it makes the park a nicer
place to be for everyone.

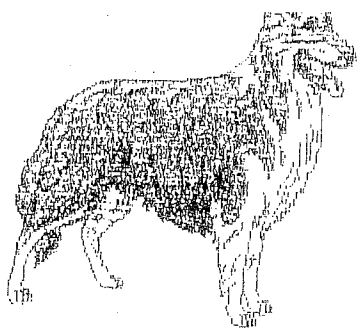


TRAILS

When walking through the park, please make sure to stay on the trails.
This will help keep erosion to a minimum and ensure that the ecosystem
thrives. There also are valuable old growth oak trees that are native to the
area and we can help them survive by not walking on their root systems. If
we lose this valuable resource, we can never get it back so please stay on
the mulched trails or gravel path.

The southern section of the park is designated as an off leash dog park; the
northern portion of the park is an Ice Age Trail plan and is an on leash
area. The Ice Age trail within the Prairie Moraine County Park is a key
section of a national trail. Ice age trails show us how the earth's history
was impacted by glaciers and Prairie Moraine is a key link because it is a
terminal moraine which is a type of moraine formed at the outer edge of
the maximum extent of a glacier or glacial lobe.

Please help us preserve this history by taking note of the signs spread
throughout the division between the off leash dog exercise area and the Ice
Age (on leash) trail. By observing the signs and adhering to this park
rule, you will help preserve the historical significance of this park and
show respect for the Ice Age Trail patrons.



AHHH, the Dog Park!

Story submitted by a park patron

Oh boy oh boy, the dog park! The second I hear my mom say the word, I am in heaven, I can hardly stand still while she puts my leash on! Then we are off in the car, I squeak and whine with anticipation all the way, I probably drive my mom crazy, but hey, she is the one who got me revved up.

After a short trip, we are there. I can smell all my old friends and some I am unfamiliar with. I pull my mom into the gate; boy is this great, dogs everywhere. I start running around, unsure who and what to sniff first. I decide to look around for familiar noses and tails and then search for some new ones. My best friend Bailey is usually there waiting for me and sometimes my other friends Prince and Canim meet us. I even am fortunate enough to sometimes run into my cousin Belfour.

We start up the trails; I run ahead but always keep my mom in sight (except when I see a rabbit or squirrel then my nose takes over for awhile). I am so happy to be at the dog park that my tail wags the whole way as I run, frolic, and greet everyone I meet. One of my favorite places in the park is the bench in the open field. Here is where I always get a treat and there are usually other dogs for me to chase and bark at. I know when we start back down the hill it means we have to go home. I am sad but it is okay because by then I am usually getting tired anyway and can go home and rest so I am ready to come back the next day and run, bark and sniff some more.

The dog park is my favorite place to go and I am so glad my mom takes me almost every day. I love meeting everyone and greeting them in the familiar nose to tail circle we go around in. You can learn a lot about someone that way!

Although I am lucky and have a fenced in back yard, this one is different because it is bigger, it lets me play with all my friends and it lets me run as much as I want.

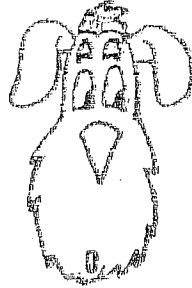
I sure am a lucky dog.

Maggie

(If your dog has a story to tell please submit it via email through our website.)

re spaces and it should be easier to get in and out. Just a reminder that it is illegal to park outside the gates of the parking area. It is also illegal to park in the designated Handicapped stall. If there is no parking in the lot, we suggest heading over to Badger Prairie Park, where there is a very nice walking trail (on leash). Also, the bike path runs right through Verona, and is a terrific place to walk your dog. If you are up for an adventure, you can also walk your dog at Blue Mound State Park. Again, an on-leash experience, but really beautiful year round.

WHERE DO PETS COME FROM?



A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?"

Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you any more. We are lonesome here, and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal."

And God said, "No problem. Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them.

And they were comforted.

And God was pleased.

And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well."

And God said, "No problem! I will create for them a companion who will be with them forever and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.

And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the supreme beings.

And Adam and Eve learned humility.

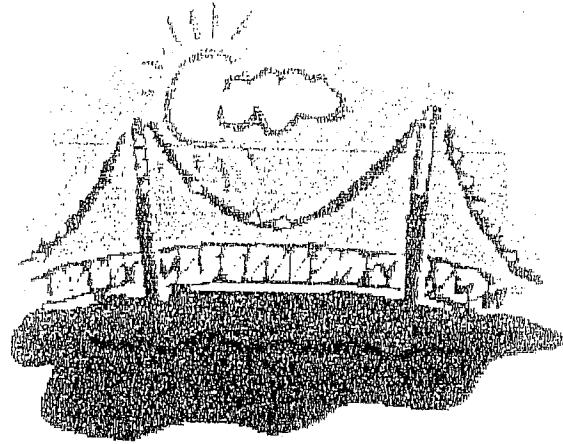
And they were greatly improved.

And God was pleased.

And Dog was happy.

And Cat didn't give a care one way or the other.

Rainbow Bridge



Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

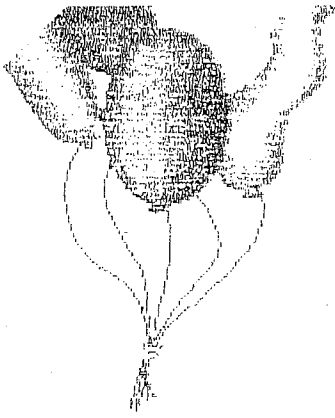
When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster. You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author unknown...



SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2002

The 7th Annual Volunteer
DOG PARK CLEAN-UP DAY

From 9 AM to Noon, rain or shine, on March 30, 2002, several area dog parks will have a poop pick up extravaganza. To make it even more fun, several sponsors have made generous donations for "goodie bags" at each of the participating dog parks. Please join in the fun and extend your appreciation to the sponsors.

PARTICIPATING DOG PARKS	LIST OF SPONSORS
Warner Park Quann Park Brittingham Sycamore Indian Lake *Prairie Moraine "Tower site" Yahara Heights Token Creek Viking Governor Nelson Sun Prairie Pet Exercise Area Ripp Pet Park Middleton Dog Park	Mounds Pet Food Warehouse Dog's Best Friend Badger Kennel Club Noah's Ark Pet Center Mad City Dog Training Three Dog Bakery Jim Veloff, CRS-RE/MAX Preferred Copy Rite, Inc. Lucky Dog Day Care and Training Center PetsMart Wisconsin Dog Federation Wag 'n' Load Papa Murphy's



WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR NEWSLETTER!

The following plant species have been found on the site.

An * indicates a native Wisconsin species.

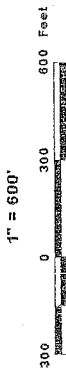
Plant Species	Common Name
1. <i>Acer negundo</i> *	Box elder
2. <i>Achillea millefolium</i> *	Yarrow
3. <i>Agrimonia</i> spp. *	Tall agrimony
4. <i>Agropyron repens</i>	Quack grass
5. <i>Andropogon gerardi</i> *	Big bluestem grass
6. <i>Anemone cylindrica</i> *	Thimbleweed
7. <i>Anemone patens</i> *	Pasque flower
8. <i>Antennaria neglecta</i> *	
9. <i>Antennaria</i> spp. *	Cat's foot
10. <i>Arctium minus</i>	Common burdock
11. <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> *	Swamp milkweed
12. <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> *	Common Milkweed
13. <i>Asclepias verticillata</i> *	Whorled Milkweed
14. <i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Asparagus
15. <i>Aster pilosus</i> *	Hairy aster
16. <i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth brome
17. <i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Plumeless thistle
18. <i>Carex pensylvanica</i> *	Pennsylvania sedge
19. <i>Carex</i> spp. *	Sedge spp.
20. <i>Carya ovata</i> *	Hickory, shagbark
21. <i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Celandine
22. <i>Chysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	Ox eye daisy
23. <i>Circaea quadrisulcata</i> *	Enchanter's nightshade
24. <i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle
25. <i>Cornus racemosa</i> *	Gray dogwood
26. <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Orchard grass
27. <i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot, Queen Anne's lace

28. <i>Giambus armeria</i>	Deptford pink
29. <i>Dodecatheon meadia</i> *	Shooting star
30. <i>Erigeron strigosus</i> *	Daisy fleabane
31. <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> *	Wild strawberry
32. <i>Galium aparine</i> *	Annual bedstraw
33. <i>Galium triflorum</i> *	Sweet-scented bedstraw
34. <i>Geranium maculatum</i> *	Wild geranium
35. <i>Ceum canadense</i> *	White avens, Wood avens
36. <i>Heuchera richardsonii</i> *	Prairie alum root
37. <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Orange hawkweed
38. <i>Hieracium longipilum</i> *	Long-bearded hawkweed
39. <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. John's Wort
40. <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> *	Red cedar
41. <i>Lactuca</i> spp. *	Wild lettuce
42. <i>Lepidium campestre</i>	Field cress
43. <i>Lespedeza capitata</i> *	Round-headed bush clover
44. <i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Butter-and-eggs, Toad flax
45. <i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tartarian honeysuckle
46. <i>Lychnis alba</i>	White campion
47. <i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick
48. <i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa
49. <i>Melilotus alba</i>	White sweet clover
50. <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> *	Wild bergamot
51. <i>Morus rubia</i>	Mulberry
52. <i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Catnip
53. <i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i> *	Smooth sweet cicely
54. <i>Oxalis acetosella</i> *	Common wood sorrel
55. <i>Panicum leibergii</i> *	Prairie panic grass
56. <i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i> *	Virginia creeper
57. <i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild parsnip
58. <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass
59. <i>Pheum pratense</i>	Timothy
60. <i>Physalis virginiana</i> *	Lance-leaved ground cherry
61. <i>Pinus banksiana</i> *	Jack pine

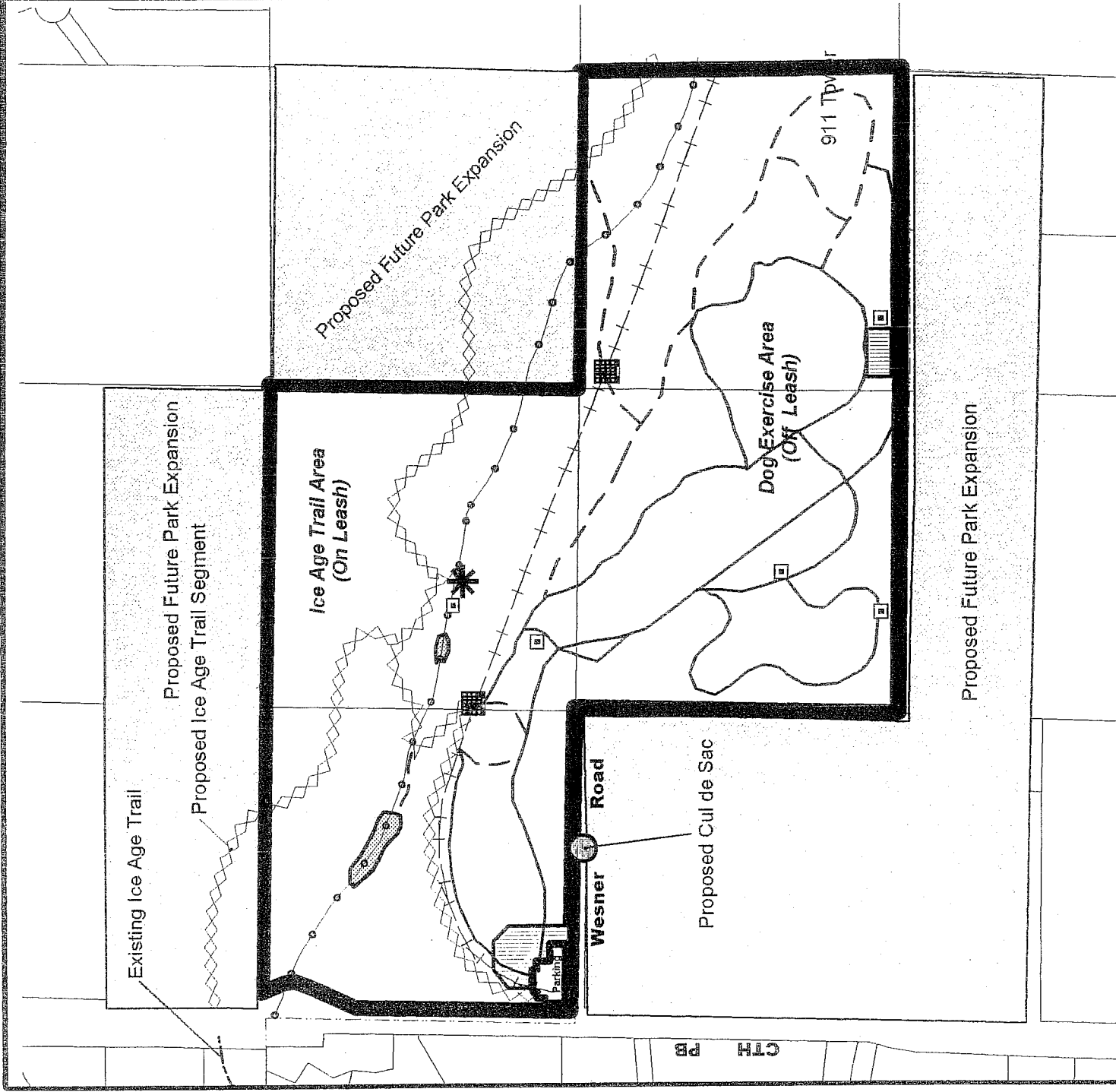
62. <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	English plantain
63. <i>Poa</i> spp.	Blue grass spp.
64. <i>Polygonatum canaliculatum</i> *	Smooth Solomon's Seal
65. <i>Potentilla recta</i>	Sulfur Cinquefoil
66. <i>Prunus serotina</i> *	Wild black cherry
67. <i>Pyrus malus</i>	Apple
68. <i>Quercus alba</i> *	White oak
69. <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> *	Bur oak
70. <i>Quercus velutina</i> *	Black oak
71. <i>Rhus glabra</i> *	Smooth sumac
72. <i>Ribes</i> spp. *	Gooseberry
73. <i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multi-flora rose
74. <i>Rosa prairie</i> *	Prairie rose
75. <i>Rubus</i> spp. *	Raspberry
76. <i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock
77. <i>Sanicula gregaria</i> *	Clustered black snakeroot
78. <i>Smilacina racemosa</i> *	Feathery false Solomon's seal
79. <i>Smilax herbacea</i> *	Carrion flower
80. <i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet nightshade
81. <i>Solidago canadensis</i> *	Common goldenrod
82. <i>Stipa spartea</i> *	Needle grass
83. <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion
84. <i>Tradescantia ohimensis</i> *	Common spiderwort
85. <i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Common goat's beard
86. <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover
87. <i>Ulmus</i> spp. *	Elm spp.
88. <i>Urtica dioica</i> *	Stinging nettle
89. <i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Mullein
90. <i>Vervena urticifolia</i> *	White vervain
91. <i>Viola palmata</i> *	Violet
92. <i>Viola</i> spp. *	Violet
93. <i>Vitis riparia</i> *	Riverbank grape

LEGEND

- Existing Benches
- Proposed Gates
- Proposed Observation Deck
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Proposed Ice Age Trail Segment
- Proposed Fence
- Moraine Ridge Line
- Ice Age Trail
- Ice Age Trail Corridor
- Proposed Parking Lot
- Proposed Cul de Sac
- Open Field Exercise Areas
- Pasque Flower Area
- Proposed Future Park Expansion Area
- Prairie Moraine Park Boundary



Prairie Moraine Draft Master Plan
 April 2002





PRAIRIE MORAINE PARK Proposed Parking Lot

Scale: 1"=20'-0"
Date: January 15, 2002

North:

