

Pope Farm Park

Master Plan

**Submitted by the
Pope Farm Park Development Committee
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I. History of Pope Farm Park

The Town of Middleton purchased the Pope farm from the Art Pope family in 1999, after public meetings at which Town of Middleton residents gave overwhelming approval to its purchase. The Town purchased 145 acres of land, of which 105 acres formally became “Pope Farm Park.”

The park lies between Old Sauk, Twin Valley, and Blackhawk Roads, and is contiguous to the remaining 40 acres of land that was included in the purchase by the town from the Pope family. The City of Madison borders these 40 acres on the east side of the Town property.

In 2002, Steve Siodlarz, a University of Wisconsin-Madison senior in Landscape Architecture, took on Pope Farm Park as his Capstone Project. Steve spent an entire year on this project, and interviewed Park Commission members, the town administrator, equestrian groups, Art Pope, and others in attempts to determine what was desired for the park. Three separate options were presented to the Park Commission. Steve proceeded to do his master plan based on this input, including text and a number of color renderings.

Over the last five years, there has been additional public input. Various viewpoints have been expressed. In the spring of 2004 a questionnaire was distributed to the Park Commission members in an effort to build a consensus of ideas concerning the park.

In April of 2004 the Park Commission appointed the Pope Farm Park Development Committee (PFPDC) to work on a master plan for the park. The plan, once completed, would then go to the Park Commission for approval before moving on to the Town Board for consideration. Eleven thousand dollars was made available to the PFPDC to fund the creation of the master plan.

II. Planning Process

A. Introduction

Much work has gone into the development of this plan since 2002. The goal of this report is to analyze the information collected thus far and synthesize it into a cohesive, comprehensive design and program reflecting the interests of the community and the character of the site.

Following are the detailed reports of the four components of this process: Inventory, Analysis, Master Plan Design and Implementation Strategy.

Inventory identifies what the site has to offer, what the community has to offer and what the community and specialists have contributed to this process to date.

The Analysis section draws the inventory information together to create a Vision for the Park and develops Goals intended to ensure that the design and program follow the Vision.

The Master Plan is the graphic description of the vision and Goals. It identifies elements to be included in the project such as roads, trails, signs, etc., and less tangible elements such as interpretive areas and programs. In addition, written text identifies and explains how each Goal is satisfied through the design.

The Implementation Strategy identifies how the Master Plan will be made real by identifying detailed cost estimates and prioritizing and scheduling work for a phased implementation.

The exhibits provide detailed information supporting statements made in the report.

B. Previous work and public input

In March 2004, Brad Ryan, Park Commission member, offered a vision of the park that complimented most viewpoints from the public and Park Commission input. The Park Commission members supported this concept. Brad's vision was that on the west side of the stone fence, the park would be kept as passive as possible. On the east side of the stone fence, an access road, parking, restrooms, water, and public viewing areas would exist, and would be the "inter-active" portion of the park. There would be minimum structures west of the stone fence and none in the central portion of the park.

The PFPDC started with this concept, then developed a planning process to be used (See Exhibit 1). The process laid out the way in which we would develop the Master Plan for the park, including the review by the Park Commission at each step of the plan.

The PFPDC reviewed the Steve Siodlarz plan mentioned earlier in the report. In addition, we interviewed Steve Siodlarz to ascertain the process he used to draw up his plan. Steve was helpful and provided us insight on how he developed his plan, and is to be commended for a successful Capstone Project.

The PFPDC also conducted three primary research projects to help form the factual basis of the master plan.

The first two research projects were done in tandem. One of these research projects was to explore what Pope Farm Park had to offer. First, twenty experts, and interested parties offered their expertise on this project (listed on page 45). Twenty separate tours of the Park were conducted for these people. From those meetings, an inventory of “Points of Interest” was developed. The results were astounding, and will be discussed later in the “Interpretive Signage” section on pages 27 - 35. All of those who toured the park gave their approval of the park concept, and offered their help in developing curricula after the Master Plan is approved.

The second research project was to survey all passive parks over 3 acres in size within Dane County. We wanted to know what these other parks offered in the way of vegetation schemes, the number of park choices people had in the county, and if any held a unique attraction to park visitors.

After reviewing the Siodlarz plan, public input, Brad Ryan’s vision, the inventory of the “points of interest” that existed in the park, and what other parks in the county have to offer, the PFPDC set forth its goals and vision and defined how the park would be positioned among other passive parks in Dane County. The PFPDC put together its master plan.

The third area of primary research was to validate the plan. To do this, we had seventeen teachers from the Middleton Cross Plains School District (MCPASD) tour Pope Farm Park. Together, these teachers have over 276 years of educational experience. At the end of the tour they were asked to fill out a questionnaire (see Exhibit 2). Their comments revealed enthusiastic support and validation of the master plan. Most offered to help write curriculum for the park. The results of the teacher survey may be seen on page 44.

C. Inventory

1. Existing site elements and amenities

The PFPDC undertook an analysis of Pope Farm Park in order to determine the inventory of “Points of Interest.” Experts in varied fields of expertise toured the Park and identified the inventory of 29 “Points of Interest.” In general, these experts (identified on page 45) were very impressed with the inventory they identified, and most suggested that we feature these Points of Interest through interpretive signage. The location of these Points of Interest can be seen on Figure 2. The description of these points of interest can be seen on pages 27 - 35.

These experts offered to assist us in our future efforts if called upon.

2. Context studies, comparative inventory of nearby parks

In order to properly position Pope Farm Park to Town of Middleton residents it was imperative to study what other municipalities have in the way of comparable parks. Thus we began the second primary research project at the same time we inventoried the “Points of

Interest.” Specifically, we were interested in passive parks over three acres in size. We surveyed all Townships, Villages, and Cities in Dane County by telephone. In addition, we contacted the State of Wisconsin, Dane County, and the University of Wisconsin to complete our analysis of passive parks throughout Dane County.

This study does not include private lands with public access, hunting lands, DNR lands, and the newly announced Dane County purchase of the Swanson Farm, less than one mile from Pope Farm Park. All of these areas provide ever more choices of woodlands, restored prairies, and wetlands to residents of Dane County.

The acreages of vegetation types are best estimate approximations in response to our survey. The acreage breakdown is illustrated below, and the detail of the illustration is contained in Exhibit 3 at the back of the report.

Summary of Passive Parks over 3 Acres in Dane County (Conducted in the Summer of 2004)

Type	Total Acreage	Total Number of Parks	Total Acreage Restored Prairie	Number of Parks with Prairie	Total Acreage Woodlands	Number of Parks with Woodland/Forest	Total Acreage Water & Wetlands	Number of Parks with Water/Wetlands	Total Acreage Natural & Agricultural	Number of Parks with Natural and Agricultural Land
Townships	526	18	62	7	140	10	142	3	145	7
Village	684	26	247	10	165	14	170	9	70	6
City (Less Madison)	572	15	63	9	350	7	134	8	20	2
Madison	1,581	13	213	7	380	12	879	3	10	1
County	6,844	31	1529	13	1,307	11	2,383	18	559	6
State	2,243	4	590	3	1,133	4	120	2	288	1
Miscellaneous	1,281	2	212	2	766	2	303	2		
Totals	13,730	109	2,916	51	4,241	60	4,131	45	1,092	23

Pope Farm Park is 105 acres in size and is the largest township park in Dane County. It is huge, and presents a unique opportunity to the Town of Middleton. However, we are not the County or State, do not have full time planners, park administrators, and naturalists, or their inventory of equipment. We must be careful what we plan, to insure ongoing success.

There are tremendous choices for woodlands, prairie restorations, water, and wetlands available in the 109 parks in Dane County. Agricultural croplands, however, are a different matter. Of the total 13,730 acres of public access to passive parks, there are approximately 700 acres of agricultural land, and most of these acres will be restored to woodlands and prairie. There are primarily three areas of agricultural lands not necessarily scheduled to be converted to other uses at this time. They are all County Parks:

Donald Park: Agricultural fields exist, but are being held until further plans can develop.

- Schumacher Farm: Primarily showing the historical nature of agricultural equipment and prairie restoration.
- Silverwood: This farm was donated to Dane County to be an operating farm with animals. There is no master plan yet and it is located in the Township of Albion

None of the 109 parks surveyed featured wheat, corn, oats, barley, soybeans, alfalfa or sorghum in their vegetation scheme. These crops are a very important part of our history, especially to the Town of Middleton, and obviously these crops are a critical part of our lives today.

We asked ourselves, where would kids be able to walk through a hay field or a wheat field 15 years from now? We suggest that they will be able to do this at Pope Farm Park. Not only will these crops be part of the “Points of Interest” at Pope Farm Park, interpretive signage will identify them to the Park visitor. Teacher interviews confirm their importance as salient attributes to the park.

The other major aspect from this research is that Pope Farm Park has much to offer from the glacial period. Very few parks have the glacial story that lies on Pope Farm Park.

Combining our rich history in agriculture, plus prairie, woodlands, geology, land formation, history, and spectacular views, will make Pope Farm Park unique and interesting when compared to the other parks we surveyed in Dane County.

III. Analysis

A. Pope Farm Park Vision

The unique variety of agriculture, natural vegetation, geology, history, and the spectacular vistas will make Pope Farm Park unique compared to any other park in Dane County. Pope Farm Park will be positioned as a place Town of Middleton residents can go to “see it all.” The visitor’s experience at Pope Farm Park will be enhanced through educational opportunities, and a variety of trails and natural surroundings.

B. Goals

After completing the first two primary research projects, we know what Pope Farm Park has to offer the Park visitor, and what other passive parks in Dane County have to offer as well. Given our comprehensive review of past input, and the additional results of our research, we have defined the goals and vision of Pope Farm Park as follows:

- 1) To encourage all Town of Middleton residents, including those with special needs, to enjoy the tremendous variety of features offered by Pope Farm Park.
- 2) To preserve and enhance the views, vistas, agriculture, natural vegetation, geology, and the history of the park.
- 3) To provide educational opportunities for Town of Middleton students by providing lesson plans, field trips and interactive projects.
- 4) To utilize interpretive signage to enhance the Pope Farm Park experience.
- 5) To put in place a basic infrastructure that can be easily upgraded over time as increased demand requires.

IV. Master Plan Drawing

V. Master Plan Design

A. Introduction

In keeping with the overall vision of Pope Farm Park, the facilities, vegetation, trails, and signage will make the visitor experience fulfilling and unique.

The facilities plan is designed to give all people access to the park. The plan is to give people adequate access in 2005, and put the “bare bones” structure in place to achieve this. This plan can be upgraded given future demand.

The vegetation plan seeks to give the visitor a variety of experiences to enhance the uniqueness of the Park. Given the results of the survey of 109 passive parks in Dane County, this vegetation plan will accomplish this goal.

The trails plan will feature 7 different trails, approximately 6.9 miles in length. These multi-use trails are designed to get the park visitor to the 29 different “Points of Interest” found throughout the Park.

The interpretive signs are a result of input from the experts who identified the “Points of Interest.” The signage will enhance the educational component of the visitor experience.

The master plan reflects the vision and goals on page 8. The vision and goals were a direct result of the analysis done on Pope Farm Park, as it lies within Dane county.

B. Facilities Description

We consulted with Patrick Cleary of Verbicher Associates for the facilities plan.



Artist Rendering of Grand Entrance to Pope Farm Park

1. Grand Entrance (Figure 1)

The grand entrance is located on the east side of the stone fence along Old Sauk Road. This is the most visible area to the public. The entrance is designed to be highly visible and create a warm, inviting nature to the park. The grand entrance will be conducive to a farm park theme. To the east of the stone fence, a white board fence will run along the frontage on Old Sauk Road. It will be angled in toward the park on either side of the entrance drive.

The landscaping will be manicured, and a planting of wildflowers will be on one side of the entrance road, with the Pope Farm Park entrance sign on the other. The entrance signage will have an antique cultivator as a decorative piece as part of the theme. Art Pope will donate the cultivator.

2. Lower Parking Lot (Figure 1)

The lower parking lot will have 18 stalls, and be utilized by Park users in the winter, dog-walkers, and people who want to hike from the entrance. The parking lot will have a backdrop of the stone fence that will be built as a landscaping feature. To the west of the stone fence, horticultural gardens or agricultural gardens will play on the agricultural theme.

3. Road to the Upper Parking Lot (Figure 1)

The road to the upper parking lot continues on to the northeast and goes around the hillside as to minimize visibility of the roadway itself. As the road meanders along the lowlands, it suddenly turns to the west up to the upper parking lot.

4. Upper Parking Lot (Figure 1)



The upper parking lot has 20 spaces and will serve as the main parking lot. This lot will be used by families with small children, as well as those that want to picnic and enjoy the views. It is located in a swale toward the Lake Mendota Viewing Point. This swale obscures the view of parked cars from the west side of the park, and reduces the visibility of parked cars from Old Sauk Road. A **restroom** will be located near this parking lot in order to minimize its visibility

from other areas of the park. The initial restroom will be a Port-a-Potty with wood trim around it to help it blend in with the landscape. Water will also be available here.

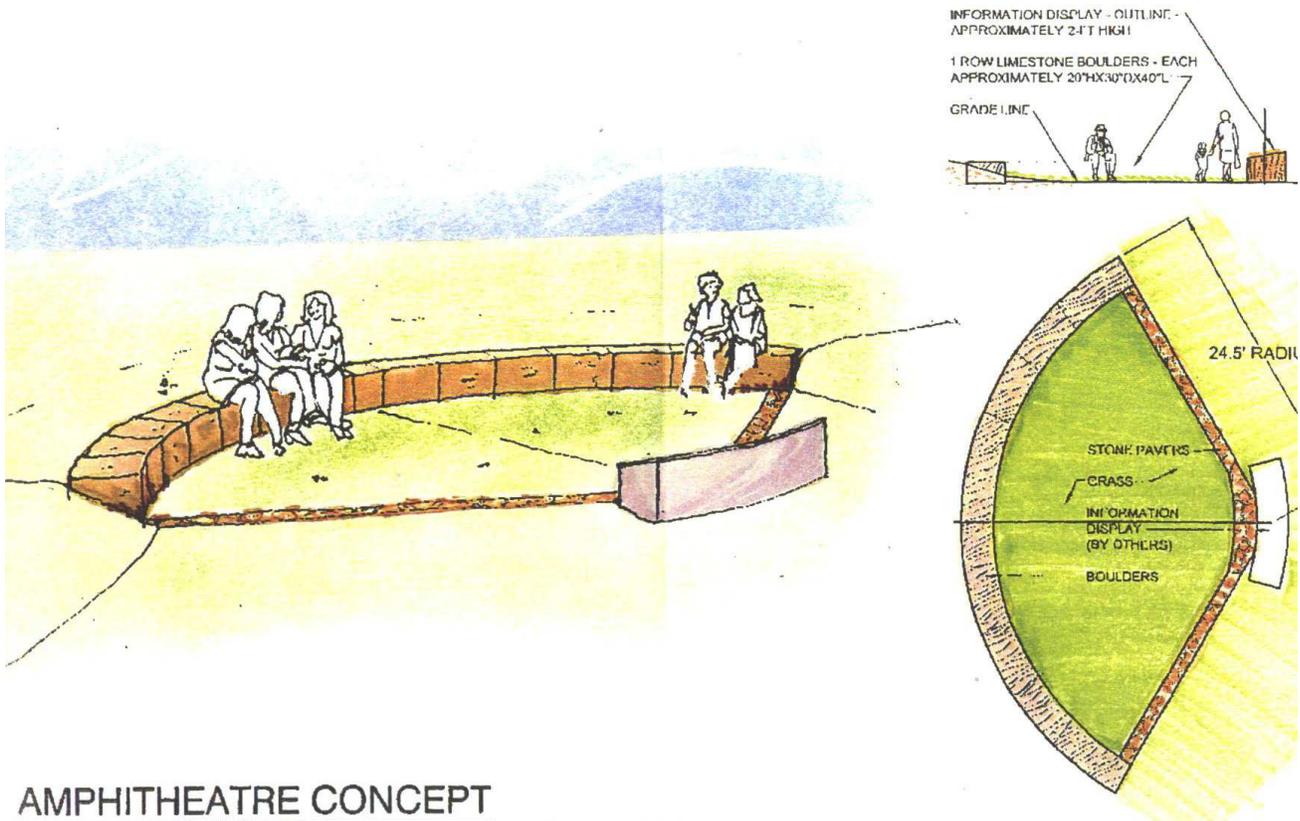
5. Viewing Area Access (Figure 1)

A one-way road will circle up to the viewing area from the upper parking lot. This road will go clock-wise as it circles to the viewing area, and then back down to the road. There will be a drop-off point for elderly and disabled people at the Lake Mendota Viewing Point. Handicap parking is available at the top of the hill as necessary. This one-way circle will accommodate school buses, so they can drop off students close to the amphitheatre.

6. Lake Mendota Viewing Point (Figure 1)

The viewing area, located east of the stone fence, will have 6-7 picnic tables and a small gazebo that will be located off the viewing area to the northeast. This gazebo will cover two picnic tables.

7. Educational Amphitheatre (Figure 1)



AMPHITHEATRE CONCEPT

Artist Rendering of the Educational Amphitheatre

In the northwest corner of the viewing area, an educational amphitheatre will face Lake Mendota. This amphitheatre will seat 30 students, and will be used for field trips and lectures.

The amphitheater will be dedicated in honor of Art and Betty Pope by their children and grandchildren.

8. Blackhawk Road Entrance (Figure 1)

This parking lot is used for pedestrian vehicles and is large enough to accommodate 2 horse trailer units for loading and unloading. The parking lot will have some landscaping in attempts to separate the equestrian and pedestrian users. At this parking lot will be a restroom and water. Both the restroom and water will not be budgeted as part of the initial infrastructure.

9. Black Earth Creek Valley Viewing Point (Figure 1)

This area, located on the west side of the stone fence, will have a small gazebo (can cover two picnic tables) and a small Amphitheatre facing the northwest with a view down Black Earth Creek Valley. This amphitheatre will be dedicated in memory of Vivian Pope. Her husband, children, and grandchildren will donate it.

10. Twin Valley Entrance (Figure 1)

This entrance would have a very small parking lot (4 stalls). It is not a priority at this point unless demand dictates its necessity. Currently there is a service entrance off Twin Valley Road and hikers and dog-walkers can enter at that point. We have put the 27 acres on the west side of the park in abeyance, and would like to wait until more information becomes available before making a final decision about this entryway.

11. Twin Valley Entrance Alternative (Figure 1)

If the Town of Middleton built a road from Pioneer Park to Pope Farm Park, a cul du sac at the end of that road could provide a small parking area contiguous to the park. People could enter the park from that point. This would be in lieu of the Twin Valley Entrance and parking area. The one advantage of this concept is that it would provide a direct link to Pioneer Park and to other trails in the central and southern parts of the Township.

12. Twin Valley Viewing Area (Figure 1)

This area would feature a gazebo to cover 2 picnic tables.

13. Service Entrances (Figure 1)

There would be service entrances on Old Sauk (on the west side of the stone fence), Twin Valley, and Black Hawk Roads. No unauthorized vehicles could enter at the service entrances. Vehicles must stay on the roads to the upper parking lot, and park in parking areas provided.

We approached the access, facilities, and parking plans with a “bare bones” concept to get the infrastructure in place in the spring/summer of 2005. As demand dictates, we can upgrade the restrooms, pave where necessary, and expand the parking lots.

The Park Commission gave their positive review on the access, parking, and facilities plan on May 10, 2004.

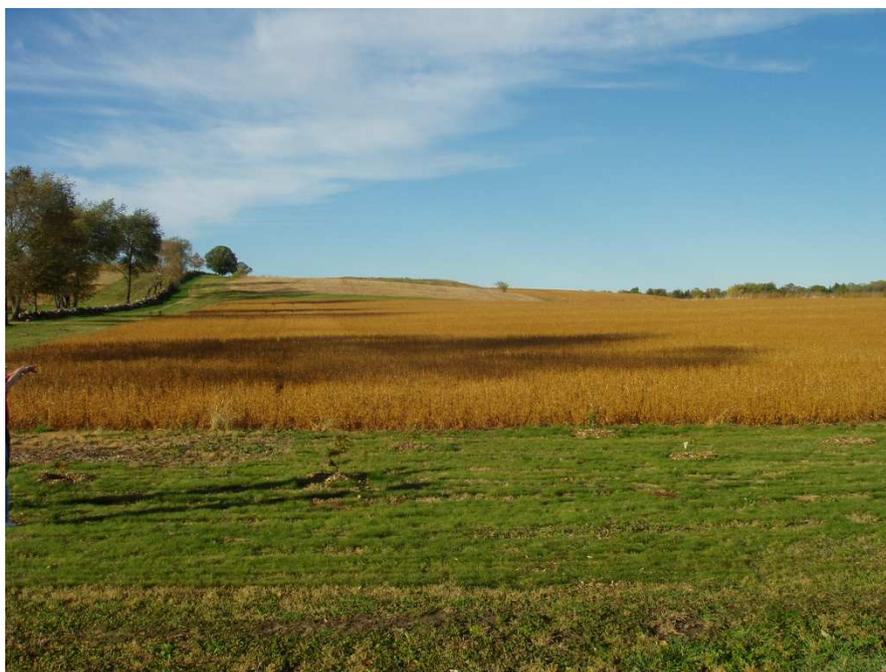
C. Vegetation Plan

The following people provided consultation for the vegetation plan:

Mike Anderson	President, Biologic
Wayne Pauly	Naturalist, Dane County Parks
Jim Hinrichs	President, Hinrichs Farms
Tom Grade	Director, Agracetus Operations
Tom Wright	Superintendent, West Madison Agricultural Research for University of Wisconsin – Madison
Art Peterson	Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Landscaping & Soil Science, University of Wisconsin – Madison

As we were conducting the two primary research projects on the Park, we enlisted Mike Anderson, President of Biologic, to put together an ecological restoration plan for certain portions of Pope Farm Park. Biologic's plan is shown in its entirety at the end of this report as Exhibit 4. We have modified this report given the results of our research, and the advice of other experts. These modifications are mentioned as part of the vegetation plan that follows.

1. Entrance 1.4 acres (Figure 1 - A)



The entrance will have manicured lawn surrounding the parking lot, roadways, signage, and white board fence.

2. Eastern Restored Prairie-South Portion (Figure 1 - B)



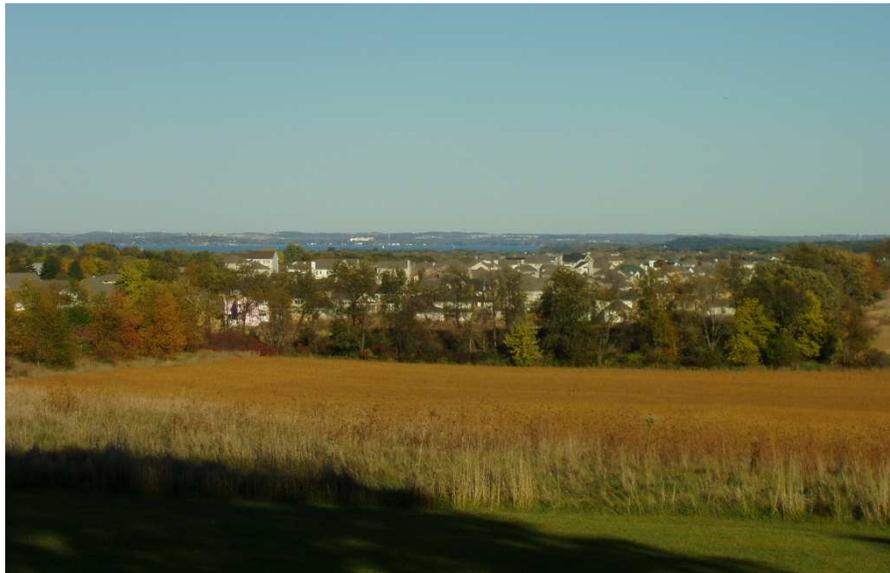
The eastern prairie will comprise approximately 21 acres. We have broken this large prairie down into three components (B, C, and D). All three parcels will have separate preparation and planting schedules. A description of this area can be seen on page 11 in Biologic's report (Exhibit 4). Parcel B should be prepared in the spring of 2005.

During the summer construction activity will take place to build the road and upper parking lot in this area. During this time, the parcel should be treated with herbicide so when construction ends, it can be planted to restored prairie (probably fall of 2005). This parcel is primarily Mesiac Prairie, and will have expensive seed to emphasize wild flowers to enhance the view from Old Sauk Road.

3. Eastern Restored Prairie-Grassy Knoll (Figure 1 - C)

This grassy area should have preparation started in the spring of 2005, and probably have several treatments before planting. Hopefully planting could occur in the spring of 2006. The description of this parcel can be seen in Biologic's report on page 11 (Exhibit 4). It will surround the manicured Lake Mendota viewing area to the east and south.

4. Eastern Restored Prairie-North (Figure 1 - D)



This area of Restored Prairie would be prepared in the spring of 2006 with planting in the fall of 2006. This land is currently agricultural and is reviewed in Biologic's report on page 11 (Exhibit 4).

The planting methods, seed type, and other pertinent factors are outlined in Biologic's report. We have assumed the preparation, planting, and maintenance of all the prairies, and oak savannah in the park, will be outsourced. This assumption is reflected in the costs shown on page 27 in Biologic's report (Exhibit 4). This is also reflected in our initial budget on page 41 of this master plan.

5. Manicured Overlook (Figure 1 - E)



This is a manicured area overlooking Lake Mendota, and is the primary viewing point of Pope Farm Park. The fence line to the west of this overlook will be cleared out to enhance the view to the west and to the northwest.

6. Horticulture/Agricultural Gardens 1.5 Acres (Figure 1 - F)



This narrow field west of the stone fence will be used for horticulture gardens or gardens for non-profit fund-raisers. Currently we are working with various community organizations to ascertain an on-going interest in this project. It will have a farm theme conducive to the grand entrance that lies on the east side of the stone fence.

7. Active Wheat Field 5.3 Acres (Figure 1 - G)

Although this is an active wheat field, the crop will be rotated. Interpretive signage identifying this crop will be on the east side of the field.

8. Active Alfalfa Field 8.7 Acres (Figure 1 - H)

Although this field is listed as an active alfalfa field, the crop will be rotated with other crops. Interpretive signage identifying this will be on the east side of the field.

9. Active Barley Field 5.9 Acres (Figure 1 - I)

Although this field is listed as an active barley field, the crop will be rotated with other crops. Interpretive signage identifying this will be on the east side of the field.

10. Active Corn Field 12 Acres (Figure 1 - J)

Although this field is listed as an active cornfield, the crop will be rotated with other crops. Interpretive signage identifying this will be on the east side of the field.

11. Natural Grassland and Wild Flowers 5.7 Acres (Figure 1 - K)



This field is described on page number 7 in Biologic's report, (Exhibit 4). After conferring with Wayne Pauly, Naturalist for Dane County Parks, we propose to put this field in natural grasses, and wild flowers. It would need to be prepared as if we were going to plant restored prairie. The supervision necessary for this project will be outsourced, and Mr. Pauly will continue to advise us on this process.

12. Oak Forest Restoration 5 Acres (Figure 1 - L)

The current Black Locust Forest will be revised as follows:

The northern portion will be cut down and replanted with cool season grasses, wild flowers, and low-growing trees. This will improve the Black Earth Creek Valley viewing corridor from the upper viewing area.

The southern portion of the Black Locust Forest will slowly be cut back, and oak trees will be planted in their place. This will be a very long-term project, and will take many years. It will continue to have a semblance of forest, but subtly over time, it will become oak. There is educational value in this as well, and interpretive signage will show our progress.

13. Invasive Species Control Area (Figure 1 – M)

This area is discussed on Page 15 of the Biologic Plan (Exhibit 4). Note we have extended the cornfield to the fence line in efforts to control the canary grass. The fence line should be cleaned out per Biologic's plan.

14. Oak Savannah 6.4 Acres (Figure 1 - N)



The northern portion of this Oak Savannah will be extended to the northwest, and feature savannah grass.

The Oak Savannah portion running east-west is sitting on what was a recessional moraine. We want to put this into some type of native habitat. We are concerned that if the habitat is too tall, the outline of the ridge would be lost. Therefore, Wayne Pauly suggested that we test several different plots of habitat on the hillside to see what is appropriate. We want this habitat to be no more than knee high. We will outsource this project and continue to get input from Wayne Pauly. In addition, we will plant trees along the hillside to replace the oak trees that have been lost to continue this unique area. We have lost a tree per year for the last 50 years at this location and it is beginning to show. We will plant trees, and “tube” them for protection.

15. Oak Savannah 1.6 Acres (Figure 1- O)

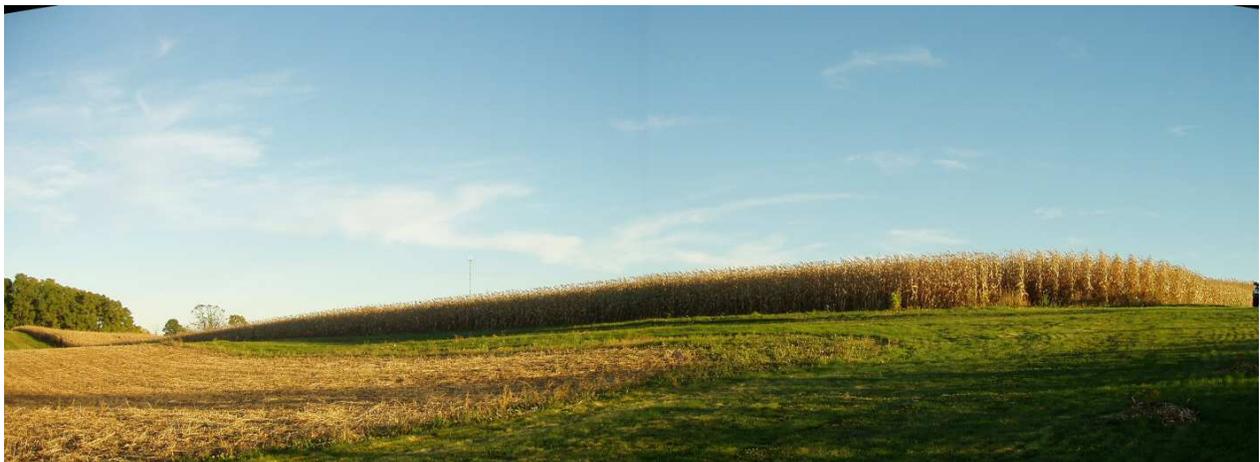


We want to cut down the locust trees, and make this into an Oak Savannah. In the plan submitted by Biologic, an assumption was made that the black locust grove would be left in tact. However, by creating this savannah, the park visitor can walk between two separate oak savannahs. Oak trees exist on the north end of this grove today, and they would be left as part of the savannah.

16. Central Restored Prairie 3.8 Acres (Figure 1 - P)

The central prairie will be done after the eastern prairie and the oak savannah is planted. This project will be outsourced. It could be done by Biologic per their description on page 10 (exhibit 4).

17. Western Fields 27 Acres (Figure 1 - Q&R)



Since the Biologic Plan has been completed, we have accumulated a great deal of information. We have decided to put these two fields in abeyance for 6-7 years. There are several reasons for this.

First, we want the opportunity to see how effective our master plan is in drawing visitors to the park. Variety is a very important component to the teachers who analyzed the master plan. Taking out two different fields of crops could have a negative impact. We will know how effective our plan is in 6-7 years.

Second, we are going to undergo a substantial prairie restoration project totaling approximately 26 acres, and another 8 acres of Oak Savannah. We want to evaluate how well we have done on this restoration project before we contemplate more. We are also interested in the cost to prepare, plant, and maintain it. We will know the answer to these questions in 6-7 years.

Third, the county is currently working on a 300-acre park, the Swanson property, less than a mile from these two fields. In keeping with a balanced approach, we want to see how the plan for this park unfolds. For instance, students might go on a morning field trip to the county park to study water ecology along Black Earth Creek, and wet mesiac prairie and plant life. In the afternoon, they might go to Pope Farm Park and study land formation, erosion control and geology. We will know the master plan for the Swanson property, and how it relates to Pope Farm Park in 6-7 years.

In the interim, this land will have two major field crops generating rental revenue for the town.

18. Breakdown of Vegetation Plan

Park Size	105.3 Acres
Less Abeyance	<u>27.0 Acres</u>
Master Plan to Date	78.3 Acres
Wheat Field (rotated)	5.3 Acres
Alfalfa Field (rotated)	8.7 Acres
Barley Field (rotated)	5.9 Acres
Corn Field (rotated)	12.0 Acres
Mesiac Prairie (East)	19.0 Acres
Dry Mesiac Prairie (East)	2.0 Acres
Mesiac Prairie (Central)	3.8 Acres
Oak Savannah (East)	6.4 Acres
Oak Savannah (West)	1.6 Acres
Oak Forest Restoration	5.0 Acres
Grassland/Wildflowers	5.7 Acres
Horticulture/Garden	1.5 Acres
Manicured Entrance	<u>1.4 Acres</u>
Master Plan to Date	78.3 Acres

Overall, the implementation plan reflects the comments of Wayne Pauly. It is important to go slowly and do it right. Wayne also suggested that Dane County could contribute up to \$2,000 worth of seed on the eastern prairie “if it is done right”. Upon approval of this plan, we will contact the County to explore this possibility.

It is important to note that the Biologic Plan (Exhibit 4) primarily revolves around prairie restoration. On page 27 of this Plan (Exhibit 4) under estimated cost, there is a line item that includes “consulting services.” This will be used to have Biologic advise us on brush removal, etc. if the Town of Middleton does those non-prairie related items that he included within this scope.

In addition, we have included an addendum (Exhibit 5) that lays out the maintenance cost of the prairie if done by Biologic. We have included these costs as part of the financial plan. If volunteers or others do some of this work, these maintenance costs could be reduced.

Tom Wright, Superintendent, West Madison Agricultural Research for University of Wisconsin – Madison, toured the park and expressed great interest in farming the crops long term. The fields that they currently farm are less than a mile from Pope Farm Park and they have all the necessary equipment available.

Some of the oak trees that were planted around the Park, as part of a nursery effort, will need to be replanted. Of the 3,000 trees that were planted, there were 538 trees still living as of September 2004. Unfortunately, many of these trees will have a negative impact on the viewing corridors and the trail landscape. Some areas of the Park will need trees, but not as many as currently exist in the nursery areas.

The Park Commission gave their positive input to this vegetation plan on July 12, 2004.

19. Implementation Plan and Schedule

Area	Start Site Preparation	Plant	Comments
Western Field Eroded Knoll (R)	Not Needed	Spring 2005	Need to prevent run-off as soon as possible
Brushy Fence Lines	Winter 2004-2005		Remove trees other than oak, hickory and scattered other species, remove all exotic shrub
Fence line north of Oak Savannah	Winter 2004-2005		Clear trees and brush
Prairie East (B) South	Spring 2005	Fall 2005	Biologic to do
Prairie East (C) Grassy area	Spring 2005 Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Start with herbicide application, Delay planting if weeds are a problem. Biologic to do
Prairie East (D) North	Spring 2006	Fall 2006	Biologic to do
Oak Savannah (N) North	Winter 2005-2006		Clear brush during winter to ease later site preparation
Oak Savannah (N) North	Spring 2006	Spring 2007	Biologic to do
Oak Savannah (N) East-West	Spring 2006	Fall 2007	Test Plot only. Plant when comfort level. Biologic to do
Oak Savannah (O)	Winter 2006-2007		Cut locust trees, spray stumps with Garlon 4 and remove
Oak Savannah (O)	Spring 2007	Spring 2008	Biologic to do
Oak Restoration (L) North	Winter 2006-2007		Cut locusts to improve view of Black Earth Creek Valley
Oak Restoration (L) North	Spring 2007	Spring 2007	Plant low trees, wild flowers, and cool grasses
Oak Restoration (L) South	Winter 2004-2005		Cut smaller locusts coming out into the field to the east
Oak Restoration (L) South	Winters 2005-2006	Spring 2007	Cut down 10' of black locusts in winter and replenish with oak in the spring
Prairie Central (P)	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Start with herbicide application, delay planting until ready. Biologic to do
Natural Grasslands and Wild Flowers (K)	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Biologic to do with input from Wayne Pauly
All	Ongoing		General Control of exotic species as they are found to prevent their spread

D. Trail System Map (Figure 2)

E. Trail System (Figure 2)

The following people provided consultation for the Trail System:

Mark Weaver	Community Planner, National Park Service
Gary Whitney	Trails Team, Town of Middleton
David Hughes	President, Friends of Donald Park
Patrick Cleary	Landscape Architect, Vierbicher & Associates
Ken Carpenter	President, Glacial Drumlin Horsetrail Association

After defining the points of interest, we believe that the existing trail system is very good, but will need some small modifications. An additional trail system would be required at:

- The eastern boundary of the park between town-owned land and Pope Farm Park
- The southern perimeter of the park through Art Pope's pasture and below the oak savannah

Two landscape architects commented that the long trails next to the fields give the park its own personality. Both suggested that we reduce the width of some of the trails (where trees have been planted on either side), which will give visitors the feeling of walking down a country lane. The trails will be 12-foot wide multi-use trails. This is the same standard used by the State of Wisconsin and Dane County. The trails will be mown grass, just as they are today.

Currently, 6.9 miles of park trails exist. For our walker's benefit, many loop distances have been measured. Portions of one trail loop may overlap another. They are as follows:

Central Loop	1.1 miles	Follows the vista past the Lake Mendota viewing point and passes most of the interpretive signage in the park. Somewhat hilly.
Country Walk	1.9 miles	Follows the perimeter of the park, through restored prairie, scenic viewpoints, and geological points of interest. Gentle rolling hills.
Eastern Loop	1.0 mile	Runs alongside the rock wall bringing visitors up to the Lake Mendota viewing area, then follows the eastern perimeter of the park along the restored prairie. Somewhat hilly.
Inner Loop	0.7 miles	Traverses through the central portion of the park and four different agricultural fields.
Locust Loop	0.6 miles	Follows a deep ravine and goes through a restored oak forest. Hilly.
Savannah Loop	0.7 miles	

Takes the visitor through and around two separate oak savannahs. Somewhat hilly.

Western Loop

0.9 miles

Surrounds the two agricultural fields on the west side of the park with a segment running parallel to Twin Valley Road. Gentle rolling hills.

We are thinking about having a contest among Town of Middleton students to rename the walking trails that we have listed above.

F. Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signage will be utilized for each of the 29 points of interest to enhance the educational experience of visitors to the park. The following “storyboard” gives a rough draft of what these signs will depict or say. After this master plan is approved, the verbiage would be professionally reviewed and edited. Signage cost and style are discussed further on page 36. In addition, curricula for teachers would be developed extensively for each of these points of interest.

1. Geology

Lloyd Pray Professor Emeritus, Geology and Geophysics, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. John Attig Professor, Wisconsin Geology and Natural History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Glacier Story

Figure 2 #1

About every 100,000 years, for much of the last million years, huge glaciers called ice sheets have expanded to cover much of northern North America. About 26,000 years ago, the most recent of these glaciers, called the Laurentide Ice Sheet flowed southward through the Lake Superior and Lake Michigan regions and into Wisconsin. Although glaciers have probably covered this park several times, geologists recognize evidence here for only the most recent glaciation, the Wisconsin Glaciation. By about 10,000 years ago the ice sheet had melted back to the Lake Superior area.

Green Bay Lobe

Figure 2 #2

About 26,000 years ago, a huge sheet of ice, the Laurentide Ice Sheet, advanced into Wisconsin. A lobe of this ice sheet, the Green Bay Lobe, flowed southward through the Green Bay and Fox River lowlands. It reached as far as the Janesville area and a short distance west of this park.

Recessional Moraine

Figure 2 #3

As climate warmed, the margin of the ice sheet slowly retreated to the north. As it retreated, its margin would sometimes stay in one spot for a number of years and a ridge of rock

material of all sizes, from clay to boulders, accumulated along the ice margin. This ridge, a recessional moraine, marks a place the glacier paused in its retreat. There is another recessional moraine in the park. Can you find it?

What would this area have looked like 15,000 years ago? (Sketch) Figure 2 #4

This sketch shows what it might have looked like here during the glacial period. There was a lake, called glacial Lake Middleton that formed where the City of Middleton is now. As the glacier melted, a larger lake formed along the margin of the ice. This was the ancestor of Lake Mendota. Water from glacial Lake Middleton drained into this ancestor of Lake Mendota.

Watersheds

Figure 2 #5

About 14,000 years ago, when the glacier was here, there was a great deal of melt water. About 50 yards southwest of where you are standing, water flowed in three different directions into three different watersheds. To the south, water flows toward the Sugar River, to the north, water flows toward Black Earth Creek, and to the east, water flows toward Pheasant Branch and Lake Mendota.

Stone Fence

Figure 2 #6

These stones were brought here from Canada and northern Wisconsin by the glacier. They were dumped across these fields as part of the recessional moraine. The stone fences naturally stop on the south side of this hill, which is part of the recessional moraine. Few stones were found in the fields beyond the moraine.



Rhyolite

Figure 2 #7



Rhyolite is found here in the stone fence. This reddish rock with gray spots is a volcanic rock that comes from an east-west trending band of rock that forms part of the Keweenaw Peninsula and extends eastward beneath Lake Superior. These pieces of rhyolite probably came from under what is eastern Lake Superior today because ice from the Green Bay Lobe flowed across that area to here.

Black Earth Creek Valley

Figure 2 #8



At this point, you are standing on the second recessional moraine in Pope Farm Park. The Black Earth Creek Valley is in front of you. A large meltwater river from the Green Bay Lobe drained westward down this valley from about 18,000 to 15,000 years ago. The bottom of this valley contains nearly 200 feet of sand and gravel deposited by this meltwater river. Here, a photograph will be posted that shows an active glacial area in Alaska. The photograph will be representative of what this valley would have looked like about 15,000 years ago.



This hillside is on a recessional moraine where the glacier edge paused, and boulders, pebbles, and soil accumulated to form a ridge. You can see the rocks on the hillside today. Water carried much silt, sand, and gravel out into the fields to your right, making them easy to cultivate because there are few rocks. This is why the stone fence stops along the hillside.

2. Restored Prairie/Oak Savannah

The following people provided consultation on the prairie and oak savannah:

Mike Anderson President, Biologic

Wayne Pauly Naturalist, Dane County Parks

Restored Dry Mesic Prairie Figure 2 #10

In this dry mesic prairie the soil is rather dry most of the time. Mesic means the dampness of the soil. What plants do you see growing here? Feel the soil. How does it feel – wet or dry? Does it crumble or bind together? How deep do you think the roots go?

Restored Mesic Prairie Figure 2 #11

The prairie is a community of many different grasses, wild flowers, insects and animals that are native to Wisconsin. The plants have long root systems that help them reach the water available that will promote their growth and stay attached to the land. Prairies like this one used to cover most of the region before we used it for farming.

Restored Oak Savannah Figure 2 #12

The oak savannah is the area where the prairie meets the oak forest. It is an important home for animals that might use the prairie during the day, but like to be in the forest at night. In the savannah, the trees have outstretched branches because other trees do not crowd them while they are growing. If you were an animal or insect, would you like to live here?

Oak Savannah Restoration Figure 2 #13

This was a grove of Black Locust trees. Black Locust trees are very invasive in nature, and were removed. In their place, we are growing natural grasses among widely spaced oak trees.

Oak Forest Restoration Figure 2 #14

The CCC planted these Black Locusts in the 1930's. At the time, it was thought they would prevent erosion. However, today we know that they are extremely invasive and do not prevent erosion. We will slowly restore this Black Locust Forest back to an Oak Forest.

3. Agricultural Crops

The following people provided consultation for the agricultural crops:

- Art Peterson Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Landscaping & Soil Science, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Jim Hinrichs President, Hinrichs Farms
- Tom Wright Superintendent, West Madison Agricultural Research Fore University of Wisconsin – Madison.
- Tom Grade Director, Agracetus Operations

Soy Bean Field Figure 2 #15

This is a soybean field. Notice the shape and color of the leaves. This plant will have either white or purple flowers. Once the flower dies, a seedpod with 2-3 seeds forms on the plant. The farmer harvests it when the plant turns yellow. Soybeans are divided and processed into many different foods - from animal feed to food for humans, including bread, cheese, and potato chips. It is also processed and used in the making of cosmetics, paint, and rubber.

Cornfield Figure 2 #16

Corn is a very old crop. It is also called maize, and is a very important crop throughout the world. Corn supplies our bodies and livestock with needed proteins and starch that give the body energy. It is also used as a petrol chemical substitute, and more recently for biodegradable plastic. Farmers will plant this crop in the spring, and harvest it in the late fall.

Alfalfa Field Figure 2 #17

Alfalfa may also be called Hay and is a legume crop that is related to the pea family. This crop comes up every year, has a purplish flower, and can grow up to 3 feet tall. In late spring, the farmer will cut this hay, and either chop it to be a put into silos, or bale it for livestock to eat in the winter. When sheep and cattle eat hay, they get the minerals, proteins, and vitamins needed to be healthy. This crop is harvested at least two to three times per year.

Wheat Field

Figure 2 #18

Did you eat something today that had wheat in it? Wheat is the world's most important crop. It belongs to the grass family. Wheat gives our bodies and livestock many important nutrients for living. This is a crop that farmers plant in the spring and harvest in the fall.

Barley Field

Figure 2 #19

It is hard to tell barley and wheat apart. Barley has a stiff beard on the seeds and wheat doesn't. Barley is used mainly for livestock feed, but it can also be used for making beer, liquor, malted milk, and some foods such as cereal.

Rye Field

Figure 2 #20

Rye is another grain that some farmers plant today, but not as much as when Pope farm got its start. This plant has stiff beards on its seeds. These seeds are ground and used mainly for feeding livestock and making flour.

Sorghum Field

Figure 2 #21

Sorghum is a cereal grass that has the grain in the stem. Several varieties of sorghum are grown for the sweet juice yielded by the stems, in making sugar and syrup. It can also be harvested by the farmers and stored in their silos for livestock feed during winter.

Erosion Control

Figure 2 #22

The following people were consulted for erosion control:

Art Peterson Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Landscaping & Soil Science, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Jack Densmore Former Forester, CCC, and SCS

The ravine at the bottom of the hill to your right was moving up this hillside because of erosion. In the 1930's, the CCC planted Black Locust Trees in the ravine, and built a spillway in 1938 to stop this hillside from eroding away. The farmers plant crops going sideways across this hillside in efforts to slow erosion. Recently no-till methods of planting have been used to help in this effort. Erosion has largely been contained on this hillside and crop production per acre has increased at the same time. Our environment is important.



4. Historical

The following people provided consultation for the historical portion of the plan.

Jim Dahlk	Lifetime Resident of the Town of Middleton
Jack Densmore	Former Forester, CCC and SCS
Art Peterson	Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Landscape & Soil Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Art Pope	Professor Emeritus, Meat and Animal Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison

The CCC Spillway

Figure 2 #23



This spillway was built in 1938. The purpose of this reinforced concrete structure is to stop the gully from continuing to cut into the hillside. It has a rectangular channel and a stilling basin to reduce the speed of the runoff. They are usually located at the cutting edge (top) of the gully with very little storage runoff. However, just cutting the velocity of the water flow in half, reduces the sediment carrying capacity by 64 times!!!

The chute spill way is a concrete open channel with steep slope in which flow is carried at supercritical velocities. It usually consists of an inlet, vertical curve section, steep-sloped channel, stilling basin and outlet. Flow passes through the inlet, and down the paved channel to the deflectors in the floor of the outlet.

To illustrate a good soil conservation practice to UW Soil and Water Conservation classes, this structure was used as a teaching stop on field trips from 1946 to 1994.



The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) was one of the attempts by President Franklin Roosevelt to meet the needs of our country during the great depression. Congress enacted it on March 31, 1933. The CCC provided work for unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 28. There were approximately 200 men per camp. Each camp had a technical staff, and in this case the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) provided it. The young men who built this erosion control structure were from the Mt. Horeb camp.

Farmers receiving CCC assistance were cooperators with the project. They, along with SCS technicians, developed control plans for their properties, and the CCC provided the manpower. The CCC was dissolved in 1942 when the men found work in the U.S. Army and industries in World War II.

Hard Work

Figure 2 #25 (Sketch)

Each spring frost would heave new stones to the surface, and the farmers would have to move these stones to this wall before they could plant their crops. The farmers would use a "Stone Boat" pulled by horses or a tractor to carry the stones to this stone fence.

Native Americans

Figure 2 #26

(Working with the Ho-Chunk Nation)

Young Thoughts

Figure 2 #27

West Middleton, and Sunset Ridge Teachers

West Middleton, and Sunset Ridge Grade Schools will utilize this sign. It will feature thoughts from our young people, and be rotated every 30 days. Subjects would include poetry, art, interpretation, etc.

History of the Town of Middleton Figure 2 #28

The Town of Middleton was formed in 1848, and ran to the shores of Lake Mendota. English immigrants primarily settled the township, but after the Civil War it became a predominately German population. The main location of the town was southeast of here where currently the Beltline intersects with Mineral Point Road. Farming was the focus and enterprise of the community.

1880 Plat Map Figure 2 #29 (Plat Map)

A Town of Middleton plat map from 1880 will be located at this point. Many descendents from this farming community still live in the area today.

These Points of Interest give the visitor to Pope Farm Park a wonderful opportunity to learn as they walk the park. The variety and splendor make this a truly unique experience. The experts and interested parties that toured the park have offered to assist us in the future in developing additional information to amplify these “points of interest.”

5. Regulatory

- An 8 ½" x 11" sign of the park rules will be posted at each entrance (See Exhibit 6).
- In addition, more prominent signs signifying: park hours, dogs must be on leash, Pope Farm Park parking only, vehicles must stay on designated road and parking lots (will be displayed at each entrance).
- 4" x 4" posts will display use icons that will show the proper uses for the trail system. These will be displayed at the trailhead – however, several will be needed in the interior of the park to prohibit animals in the Lake Mendota Viewing Area, and for Equestrian users on the forest trails. The current equestrian signs should be removed.
- Other miscellaneous regulatory signs will be needed, i.e.:
 - "Gate closes at ___ PM" (Road to upper parking lot)
 - "To scenic parking area" (Road to upper parking lot)
 - "Parking for dog-walking"
 - "Please do not remove stones from stone fence."
 - Forfeitures
- Trail Signage:
 - Will show the trail system, and relative mileage. "You are here" will signify how the user might wish to proceed. These trail signs will be at the entrances and throughout the trail system where appropriate. (3 signs in the interior of the park.)

6. Signage design and cost

The current estimate for park signage is \$16,000. This estimate assumes that the signs will be produced at Badger State Industries and the frames purchased from Best-Ex in Baraboo.



Best-Ex Interpretive Sign Frame

The artwork for the signs will be output on vinyl, and then laminated between Lexan and an aluminum backing with high-pressure rollers. These signs, designed for outdoor use, are nonreflective, and UV and vandal resistant. Sizes range from 8½ x 11 inches to 24 x 36 inches.

The signs will be placed in outdoor metal frames. The frames will be mounted to 4" x 4" wood posts at an angle for viewing ease. Recommended mounting height from the bottom edge of the frame to the ground is 32 inches. The frame design is conducive to frequent sign changes, if necessary.

VI. Implementation Strategy

A. Use

Given our goals of providing a passive and educational opportunity at Pope Farm Park, and the proposed trail system, we recommend the following uses:

- Hiking, picnicking, field trips, viewing, cross-country skiing, and work projects for our youth.
- Equestrian use in designated areas.
- Dog walking on leash for responsible visitors who 'pick up' after their dog.

Dogs

In the last four years the park has been used by a great number of people as a place to run their dogs. The vast majority of these people are from outside the township. Tolerating dogs off leash give rise to the following concerns:

- **Liability Issues:** Potential for dog conflicts with humans, horses, and other dogs.
- **Use Conflicts:** Uncontrolled dogs are not conducive to children's field trips, amphitheatre lectures, hiking, and picnicking.
- **Wildlife Disturbances:** Small grain crops and prairie restoration will encourage native birds to repopulate the park. Dogs off leash will be counterproductive to this effort.
- **Increase in Unleashed Dogs:** If unleashed dogs are not controlled, the number of people running their dogs will rapidly increase by 'word of mouth' because of the shortage of dog parks in the area.

We believe that responsible dog walking is desirable, however if dogs cannot be controlled, dog use in the park should be discontinued. Both equestrian and dog use should continue on a trial basis, and be reviewed periodically.

Animals should not be allowed in the primary viewing area overlooking Lake Mendota. Picnickers, and users of the amphitheatre will heavily utilize this area.

Equestrian users should not use the trail through the forest below the CCC Dam. The trail is confined and given that it is a multi-use trail, it would be too dangerous to allow equestrian use.

B. Security, Regulation, and Rules

The following people provided consultation for security, regulation, and rules:

Tim Ritter Lieutenant, Dane Co. Sheriff's Office

Dave Cattanach Sergeant, Dane Co. Sheriff's Office

The Pope Farm Park rules (Exhibit 6) will be posted and a copy will be sent to the Dane Co. Sheriff's office. Our understanding is that these rules are in line with the Town ordinances.

The only vehicle entrance to the interior portion of the Park will be from Old Sauk Road to the upper parking lot area. This road will be gated, and closed every evening at 9:00 p.m., unless there is approval by the town administrator for special occasions (i.e. Fourth of July).

This gate would also be closed during the winter months. All service entrances to the park will be gated and used by authorized personnel only.

The Dane Co. Sheriff's Department will have access to the interior park and are encouraged to patrol the park during shift change as much as possible.

Pope Farm Park should have its own address. The Dane Co. Sheriff's Department accumulates data by address. We need to have the information available in order to properly review problems and complaints at the Park, and to make decisions in the future.

C. Promotion and Visibility

Our research shows that Pope Farm Park is unique because of the tremendous variety of interesting points, and the spectacular views it contains. We will try to position the Park as a place where Town of Middleton residents can go and 'see it all' in their own backyard.

Our strategy will be to concentrate on the MCPASD, and specifically the schools where Town of Middleton students attend. We will include teachers of these students in planning curricula for the Park, and encourage them to use the park for field trips. In addition, these schools that include Town of Middleton students will be given priority on work projects in the Park. Over time, Town of Middleton young people will be exposed to the dynamics of Pope Farm Park and overall awareness will be increased to Town of Middleton residents.

We will also like to produce park brochures and to have a grand opening in order to increase awareness.

1. Brochures

1 sheet 8 ½ folded to 5 ½ x 8 1/2 will show the Master Plan on the cover, and the interior will highlight what the Park has to offer.

2. Grand Opening – Fall 2005

After the grand entrance, road, parking lot, and interpretative signage are complete, Pope Farm Park would have its grand opening.

- Many of the experts we have interviewed would be available for tours and discussion.
- Invite Town of Middleton residents and schoolteachers from the MCPASD by letter, with a brochure and a letter of invitation.
- "A Gift from Pope Farm Park." If there are oak trees available at Pope Farm Park that need replanting, offer one oak tree per household to Town of Middleton residents. (As long as supply would last, and they would prepare the tree for replanting)

The ongoing promotion of Pope Farm Park will be the development of lesson plans, and curricula. A videotape showing the experts we interviewed for this plan on location and supplement those lesson plans. After the grand opening we will begin measuring the impact of our strategy. Visitation and the quality of the park experience will need to be base lined. We will set goals for the future, and continually improve the plan.

D. Implementation Timeline / Costs

The financial plan gives a three-year projection to bring Pope Farm Park to the Master Plan described in this report. During the first year (2005) we recommend completing the infrastructure necessary to provide access and educational opportunity to the Park. Years two, three, and beyond will provide additional infrastructure, but could be modified pending demand. We have not addressed the cost of the Twin Valley parking area.

Matching funds from the DNR will be utilized for proposed roads and parking in the amount of \$56,250.

The second portion of the financial plan deals with ongoing maintenance cost. We do not include general Park maintenance in our numbers. However, we include costs attributed to prairie restoration, including preparation, planting, and maintenance. This will be done by Biologic, and could be reduced by volunteer efforts.

Pope Farm Capital Budget

	Year 2004	Year 2005	Year 2006	Year 2007
Planning	9,000			
Main Entrance				
earthwork		61,710		
site improvements		22,475		
engineering		7,000		
picnic tables		1,350		
gazebo			8,500	
sub-total		92,535	8,500	
Blackhawk Entrance		8,000		
less current grant		-2,600		
sub-total		5,400		
Blackhawk Viewing Area				
picnic tables			675	
gazebo			8,500	
sub-total			9,175	
Water				
one drilled well		10,365		
pump, tank, fountaining, piping		7,850	10,400	
electrical-1200 ft @\$2/ft		2,400		
sub-total		20,615	10,400	
Prairie Restoration		10,300	16,285	
Prairie/Woodland Maintenance		500	11,500	10,500
Amphitheaters		5,600		
less contribution from Pope Family		-5,600		
Signage		16,000		
Promotion (Brochures)		2,000		
Porta Potty Screens		1,000	1,000	
TOTAL	9,000	148,350	56,860	10,500
less DNR matching funds		-56,250		
NET COST to TOWN	9,000	92,100	56,860	10,500
CUMULATIVE COST to TOWN	9,000	101,100	157,960	168,460
Optional Upgrades				
seal coating of parking lots		10,371		
asphalt paving		30,715		
pavement stripping over asphalt		1,650		
pink lady quartzite over trails		1,512		
pit toilets		20,000		

Cost of producing the Master Plan

Biologic	Vegetation Plan	\$1,600
Vierbicher	Entrance Road, Parking Drawings	\$2,437
Vierbicher	Parking lots – Twin Valley/Blackhawk	\$ 883
Steve Siodlarz	Park/Facilities/Access	\$ 275
Steve Siodlarz	Initial Master Plan Drawing	\$1,050
Steve Siodlarz	Trail/Points of Interest Drawing	\$ 500
Vierbicher	Amphitheatre Drawing	\$1,000
Cook Reprographics	Master Plan Maps	\$ 218
Copy Shop	Master Plan Copies	\$ 900 (estimate)
Postage		\$ 25
Miscellaneous		\$ 112
	Total Cost to Produce Plan	\$9,000

Another item of note is that an area farmer is currently renting the cropland. The rental rate may be reduced for some of the crop varieties suggested in our plan. It is important for the town to test the rents to see if they are competitive. The 27 acres held in abeyance would remain at market level.

E. Additional Implementation Items

Although the financial plan lays out the initial investment required in 2005, and subsequent annual investments, there are other peripheral items that we need to address.

There are certain items that are a priority in the Park:

- **CCC Dam** – the sidewall is broken and sticking out into the spillway. The longer it exists, the greater the damage. It needs to be pushed back into place.
- **Erosion** – In the western portion of the park, erosion is taking place on the southern side of the hill at its steepest point (Southwest of the Black locust grove). Cool season grasses should be planted to help stop erosion in this area.

If the Board approves this Plan, the Pope Farm Park development committee will continue to meet to flush out the long-term priorities of the Park. We will create a comprehensive 'to do' list for the Park, and break this list into four different levels of priority. This will aid in the management of the Park given annual funding levels, grants, and volunteer work projects.

There are other items that need follow up after the Board approves this Plan:

- Interpretative signage needs to be edited professionally.
- Create a group of people to form 'Friends of Pope Farm Park' to coordinate volunteers, and work projects at the Park. Possibly an individual will be needed to coordinate these volunteer efforts.

There is a great interest by teachers in utilizing this Park for educational purposes. It is apparent that curricula need to be developed and a number of teachers have offered to help.

- Ann Walser, a Town of Middleton resident and retired environmental science teacher has agreed to help coordinate this.
- The Middleton Alternative School has agreed to help by doing a video on the 'points of interest' to be a supplement to the curricula.

We will also look at:

- Look at the possibility of creating a website for the Park, with web links to other relevant sites.
- Provide schools in the MCPASD who teach Town of Middleton students a list of possible work projects at the Park.
- Continue to research the horticulture garden or agricultural garden for non-profit fundraisers.

F. Contingency Planning

We have designed the master plan to be very flexible for the future. After the initial investment in 2005, the Plan can easily be upgraded or modified, as demand requires.

1. Facilities Plan

Old Sauk parking	can be expanded or paved
Roadway to upper paved lot	can be paved
Upper parking lot	can be expanded or paved
Blackhawk parking lot	can be expanded or paved
Twin Valley Parking lot	can be expanded or paved, or not come to fruition given a possible road from Pioneer Park to Pope Farm Park.
Restroom facilities	can be upgraded

2. Vegetation Plan

Agricultural fields could be converted to other types of habitat

3. Use and Promotion

Can be modified given circumstances

4. Signage

Can easily be changed given the design we are using for the frames

VII. Validation of Master Plan

The variety found in the vegetation plan, when blended together with the geology, land formation, erosion control, agriculture, history, and spectacular views, yield a tapestry that formed the basis for the Master Plan for Pope Farm Park. The inclusion of Interpretive Signage provided a way to enhance the educational opportunity for park visitors.

In an effort to improve and/or validate the master plan, we entered into our third area of primary research.

We invited 17 teachers from the Middleton Cross Plains School District (MCPASD) to Pope Farm Park. We conducted 15 separate tours, and the master plan was presented to them, including the points of interest, the vegetation plan, and the facilities plan. The teachers filled out a questionnaire when they completed the tour (see Exhibit 2) so we could tabulate their feedback.

These 17 teachers represented 276 years of teaching experience, and most were involved in teaching environmental science. These teachers came from specific schools that teach Town of Middleton pupils. For instance, of the 6 different grade schools in the MCPASD, we chose Sunset Ridge and West Middleton. We also chose Glacier Creek Middle School and of course Middleton High School.

All 17 teachers approved the master plan, but the enthusiastic way in which they approved it is worth noting. Many of their suggestions have improved this plan. When they were asked how many field trips they would take to Pope Farm Park, the low end was 26 field trips per year, and the high end was 38. It must be noted that this is a subset of the MCPASD, and when you begin to extrapolate these results to the rest of the MCPASD, and perhaps other school districts, you begin to see the magnitude of this educational opportunity. In addition to field trips, many of the teachers were interested in work projects at the park. Our plan is to closely co-ordinate work projects with the schools where Town of Middleton students attend.

The vegetation plan was overwhelmingly approved, as 15 of these teachers wanted the variety of crops we have included in the Plan. All 17 teachers agreed to review curricula for Pope Farm Park. Probably the most revealing statistic is that 11 of the 17 teachers are willing to actually write curricula for the Pope Farm Park. We believe that those who can best judge the educational value of the park have enthusiastically validated the outcome of the Master Plan.

VIII. Acknowledgements

The Pope Farm Park Development Committee has met over 25 times, including 6 on-site meetings. We have conducted over 35 on-site tours with experts from different disciplines, including teachers, naturalists, agricultural experts, geologists, and people from our community. Many thanks to the following participants in this process:

*	Michael Anderson	President of Biologic, Madison, WI
* +	Dr. John Attig	Professor Wisconsin Geology and Natural History, UW Madison
	Dick Black	Interior Operations Manager, Dane County Parks
* +	Ken Carpenter	President, Glacial Drumlin Horsetrail Assoc.
* +	Patrick Cleary	Landscape Architect, Vierbicher and Associates
* +	Jim Dahlk	Former Park Commission Member, Town of Middleton
* +	Jack Densmore	Retired Forester, CCC and SCS
* +	Tom Grade	Director, Agracetus Operations
* +	Jim Hinrichs	President, Hinrichs Farms, Middleton, Wisconsin
* +	David Hughes	President, Friends of Donald Park
	Darren Marsh	Interim Parks Director, Dane County Parks
* +	Jim Mathews	Teacher, Middleton Alternative School
* +	Chuck Oehler	President of the Oehler Group, Past President and Executive Director of the Wisconsin Biotechnology Association
* +	Wayne Pauly	Naturalist, Dane County Parks
* +	Art Peterson	Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Landscaping & Soil Science, UW Madison
* +	Art Pope	Previous owner of Pope Farm Park, Professor Emeritus, Animal Science, UW Madison
* +	Lloyd Pray	Professor Emeritus, Geology, and Geophysics, UW Madison
* +	Steve Siodlarz	Landscape Architect, Bruce Company
* +	Ann Walser	Retired Environmental Ed Teacher, Resident of Town of Middleton
* +	Mark Weaver	Community Planner, National Park Service
* +	Gary Whitney	President, Western Dane Co. Chapter, Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Assoc.
* +	Tom Wright	Superintendent, West Madison Agricultural Research for UW Madison
*	Rod Zubella	President, Vierbicher and Associates
* +	Bill Reis	Superintendent of Schools, MCPASD
* +	Tom Wohlleber	Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, MCPASD
* ...	On-site visit	
+ ...	Approved Master Plan (only ones asked)	

Our Thanks to the Following Teachers:

- * + Ellen Anderson 6th Grade Teacher, Glacier Creek Middle School
- * + Diane Boles 3rd Grade Teacher, West Middleton Grade School
- * + Mike Duren Sociology & Environmental Science Teacher, Middleton High School
- * + Melanie Hannam K-5 Special Education Teacher, West Middleton Grade School
- * + Linda Hein 4th Grade Teacher, Sunset Ridge Elementary School
- * + Kathy Hiteman Teacher, West Middleton Elementary School
- * + Steve Miller Earth Science Teacher, Kromrey Middle School
- * + Nora Montgomery K-4 Enrichment Teacher, West Middleton Elementary School
- * + Liz Odgnen K-5 Physical Education Teacher, West Middleton Grade School
- * + Sarah Pflasterer Earth Science Teacher, Glacier Creek Middle School
- * + Sue Porter 4th Grade Teacher, Sunset Ridge Elementary School
- * + Jane Richard Kindergarten Teacher, West Middleton Grade School
- * + Kristine Theis Earth Science Teacher, Glacier Creek Middle School
- * + Susan Wiegel Science Teacher, Glacier Creek Middle School
- * + Deb Wietzel Chemistry & Environmental Science Teacher, Middleton High School
- * + Nicole Scadden 3rd, 5th, and 7th grade teacher, Sunset Ridge Elementary
- * + Julia Schmalzer 5th grade teacher, Sunset Ridge Elementary

- * ... On-site visit
- + ... Approved Master Plan