

WINGRA WATERSHED NEWS

Promoting a healthy Lake Wingra through an active watershed community.

SUMMER 2019 • VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 2

If Children Designed Vilas Park

by Casey Hanson



This image co-designed by several students represents a request for more trees, a slide that drops you in the water, a net that filters out invasive aquatic plants, a clear platform where you can see the fish underneath you, and a zip line between trees near the lake.

If you ever need a reminder to think outside the box and enjoy the simple things in life, spend time with 80 third graders from Lincoln Elementary at Vilas Park! On a hot and sunny May morning students poured out of yellow school buses eager to learn through outdoor play and exploration. Thanks to a Go Outside grant for the Wisconsin Natural Resource Foundation, Friends of Lake Wingra led a Vilas Park children's design workshop. With the City of Madison Vilas Park master planning process underway, this seemed like a perfect opportunity to empower children with skills for how to think, not what to think by sharing their visions for Vilas' future.

Our field trip kicked off with a short guided tour of the park. It included lots of pit stops to observe wildlife and wiggle our toes in the sand. Of course we did not forget to discuss how humans can impact the environment and how that relates to master planning. Eager to explore the park at their own free will, students then broke into mini-groups and used a large picture frame to document what they liked and didn't like. Popular likes included open space and the lake. Popular dislikes included litter and algae blooms.

After their "site analysis," students used legos, paper and crayons, chalk, and arts and crafts to create their ideas. One recurring theme was desire to integrate play near water and in nature. The current playgrounds at Vilas are removed from the lake and lagoon. Because a picture is worth a thousand words, see a few examples of Vilas through their eyes in the photos accompanying this article.

(continued on pg. 2)



Nature-based play is still en vogue. Many students wanted to see more treehouses throughout the parks.

IN THIS ISSUE

pg 1 - If Children Designed Vilas Park

pg 2 - How Can You Share Your Vision for Vilas Park

pg 3 - 2019 Fish Wingra

pg 4 - Lake Wingra Work Plan

pg 5 - Log Rolling on Lake Wingra

pg 6 - Environmental Impacts of Edgewood Stadium



This creation represents a healthy lake with aquatic plants and fish. A student is fishing with a fishing pole!

(continued from pg. 1) A huge thank you to the Habitat for Humanity of Dane County for hosting a lego build station and to the City of Madison Parks department for co-leading some of the site tours!



Students expressed adverse reactions to the road and traffic through the park.

How can you share your vision for Vilas Park?

The City of Madison Parks Division wants to know: "What do you love most about Vilas Park?", "What would you change?" and, "How can the park best serve our whole community as Madison grows?"

A community engagement meeting led by Parks and their hired consultant (MSA Professionals, Inc) on June 26 was the first step in answering these questions.

Share your thoughts in their public survey which is open until August 28.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VilasMP>

This plan acts as a framework plan to inform improvements at the park during the next 15-20 years. It is a reference for the development of future capital improvement projects that could add to, replace or improve amenities at the park including sport courts, playgrounds, fields, lagoons, beaches, parking, roadways, pedestrian paths and more! The plan document, along with a master plan report, will go through several development and schematic stages that will be reviewed by other city and county agency staff, working groups comprised of neighborhood, community and environmental affiliates and eventually go to the Board of Park Commissioners for approval prior to being implemented.

Updates on the project including future meetings will be posted to the Parks Projects website, which for the Vilas Master Plan is located at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/vilas-henry-park-master-plan> and includes an option to Subscribe to Email List to receive updates directly.

2019 Fish Wingra in the Hooks!



photo by Roger Bannerman

by Johnny Armstrong

Our first Fish Wingra event (Free Family Fishing Workshop) was a success. We taught folks how to rig a basic hook line and sinker rig and fish with worms. For some it was their first time ever fishing. We fished along the lagoon shores adjacent to the Vilas Park shelter. Although the weeds got in the way, we had many catches and smiles from ear to ear. The weather was absolutely beautiful that day. We took a break for some grilled goodies served up by Friends of Lake Wingra board members followed by another couple hours of fishing.

I believe fishing can bring balance to one's life. For me it is a great time to reflect on life and enjoy the great outdoors. Due to the success of the event, we plan to continue the tradition that aligns with the WDNR's free weekend. Keep an eye out next year for another event. We might even put on a small scale "Ice Fishing Workshop" if demand calls for it! If you think you'd be interested in that, please email info@lakewingra.org subject: ice fishing workshop. This would also align with WDNR's free fishing weekend in January (usually mid-month January).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who signed up and came to the event. In addition, we would like to thank our main sponsor, Bass Pro Shop and Cabela's Outdoor Fund for awarding us with the grant. Without this grant, we would not have been able to keep this event free. A big thanks goes to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for giving all the adults an opportunity to fish without a license and for the loaner gear.

I hope to see you out on the water soon "wetting a line".

Mission

We promote a healthy Lake Wingra through an active watershed community.

Friends of Lake Wingra Board

Ben Yahr, Chair
Ian Krauss, Vice-chair
Hannah Buscemi, Secretary
Matthew Byars, Treasurer
Roger Bannerman
Hannah Buscemi
Timothy Kuhman

Advisors to the Board

Anne Forbes
Tyler Leeper
Jim Lorman
John Magnuson
John Nicol
Rebecca Power



Become a Friend

To become a Friend of Lake Wingra, send your tax-deductible contribution using our address below.

Please make checks to:
"Friends of Lake Wingra"

Or visit our website at:
www.lakewingra.org/donate

Friends of Lake Wingra, Inc.

PO Box 45071
Madison, WI 53744
info@lakewingra.org
www.lakewingra.org

Wingra Watershed News

Summer 2019, Vol. 16, No. 2
Wingra Watershed News is published twice yearly by Friends of Lake Wingra, Inc.

Volunteer with Friends of Lake Wingra

We could really use volunteers to:

- Grow our board of directors
- Plan fundraising events
- Maintain/install rain gardens or native prairies
- Help with web design and redesign old and new posters
- Assist in marketing and social media strategies

Let's chat! We can also discuss other opportunities.
info@lakewingra.org

Friends of Lake Wingra Board Meetings

When we see a new face at a board meeting, it makes our day! Anyone is welcome to attend at any time. Have something you want to talk about? Email us at least a week in advance so it can get on the agenda.

When: First Thursday of the month from 6:30 – 8:00 (double check website for any changes)

Where: Sequoya Library

Become a Friends of Lake Wingra Board Member

We're on the lookout for experience in:

- Nonprofit law
- Accounting & budgeting
- Fundraising
- Youth education
- Marketing/Communications
- Business-nonprofit partnerships
- Information technology
- Grant writing



WORK PLAN

Our 2019-2020 work plan is based off of the three goals identified in our 3-year strategic plan. A board member helps oversee every project or item listed below. Project timelines and other information is found in our work plan spreadsheet.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

VOLUNTEERING

AMPHIBIAN MONITORING
WINGRA CREEK CLEAN UP
BADGER VOLUNTEERS
ODANA RAIN GARDEN
VOLUNTEER PARTNER MATCHING

GOVERNANCE

BOARD RECRUITMENT
ADOPT BOARD HANDBOOK

FINANCIAL HEALTH

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
DONOR MAILING
LL BEAN 5K
FUNDRAISING EVENT

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

EDUCATION

SCIENCE THURSDAY
NAKOMA MEETING
IMAX MOVIE
ABCs OF WINGRA
NRF FIELD TRIP
KIDS WATERSHED PASSPORT

COMMUNICATION

NEWSLETTERS
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTERS
NEW GROUP/NEW MESSAGE
WATERSHED MAPPING PROJECT

COMMUNITY BUILDING

MONROE ST FEST
STORY CONTEST
NEW SWAG
#STUCKONWINGRA
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
WINGRA BOATS PADDLE
NEW HIGH EXPOSURE EVENT
ICE FISHING EVENT
SUMMER FISHING EVENT

WINGRA WMP

PROJECTS

LEAF PILOT WITH STREETS
WI SALT WISE
VILAS PARK MASTER PLAN

PARTNERSHIPS

QUARTERLY ALDER MEETINGS
QUARTERLY ENGINEERING MEETINGS
WINGRA STAKEHOLDER BIENNIAL MEETINGS



All photos provided by Madison Log Rolling

During the 19th century, logging reshaped the landscape of Wisconsin and provided a livelihood for thousands of workers. The bravest of these lumberjacks, known as “log drivers” or “river pigs” rode and drove the timber from the woods to the sawmills using the river’s current. At the end of the log drives, lumberjacks would compete to see who was the best “birler,” or as we call them now, log roller.

The sport has evolved into a serious athletic event featured on ESPN, Outdoor Life, and ABC Wide World of Sports. People of all ages now log roll in pools, lakes, ponds, and tanks all over the US and Canada as well as in a few other countries!

Back in the 1970s log rolling was introduced to the West YMCA in Madison. In 2005, Olivia Judd and Shana (Martin) Verstegen began training and teaching outdoor log rolling lessons at Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center. In 2010, they



formed Madison Log Rolling LLP so they could preserve the rich history of Wisconsin logging by sharing this unique sport with Madison community.

Since Madison Log Rolling was founded, the program has grown from two logs and a dozen students, to teaching hundreds of students each year. Every summer they welcome summer camps, visitors to Madison, families, and even the

occasional film crew. In 2014 the international science show Hack My Brain! filmed an episode at lake Wingra in which host Todd Sampson tried to improve his coordination and agility by learning to log roll.

Meanwhile, Madison Log Rolling’s coaches and students spend each summer training to compete all over the Midwest including at the Lumberjack World Championships in Hayward, Wisconsin. Madison Log Rolling co-owner Shana Verstegen holds six log rolling world titles, and the school has trained many other rollers who rank among the best in the world.

We proudly host the Midwest Log Rolling Championships annually in June. Touted as one of the most competitive – and fun- log rolling tournaments in the world, this event raises thousands of dollars for the Huntington’s Disease Society of America and brings hundreds of people to beautiful Lake Wingra yearly.

The sport of log rolling pulls from all levels of athleticism: balance, leg strength, quickness, agility, cardiovascular endurance, core strength, coordination and more!

We welcome people of all ages, all levels of fitness, and all athletic backgrounds to join us at Wingra Park to try this unique and exhilarating sport.

For more information on how to join us, please visit: www.madisonlogrolling.com



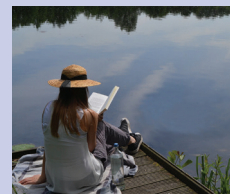
#StuckonWingra

We ♥ Lake Wingra. We’re not embarrassed to admit it. We challenge you to get #StuckonWingra too! Show us your love for Wingra by sharing pictures of your Friends of Lake Wingra sticker using the hashtag #StuckonWingra. Don’t be bashful on the creative front. Take your picture at the lake, at the farmer’s market, along Monroe Street, when you see a duck, you get the drift. Don’t have a sticker? Pick one up at Wingra Boats or Orange Tree Imports. Its free if you participate in the StuckonWingra Challenge!



[@FriendsOfLakeWingra](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLakeWingra)
[@friendsoflakewingra](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoflakewingra)

Share your story about Lake Wingra and enter to win a Monroe Street gift card!



We all feel a sense of camaraderie because of our deep love for Lake Wingra, yet we don’t really know about each other’s stories of why Wingra is so special. Also, nobody can resist a properly told story of how things were back in the day. If you have a story about why Lake Wingra is special to you or what Lake Wingra was like or what was happening at Lake Wingra in the good old days submit your story at <https://www.lakewingra.org/story-contest> We’ll narrow down the results and have you decide the winner. Deadline is August 31.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Edgewood Stadium

by David H. Thompson



photo by Ben Yahr

Edgewood High School intends to improve their Goodman Athletic Complex by increasing seating and other amenities, along with adding a permanent PA system and lights for night games. In support, they submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) dated Jan 10, 2019. The project is strongly opposed by about 80 percent of nearby residents. The controversy arises from possible impacts of the proposed sound amplification and the new lights for night games, because this is no ordinary stadium environment.

The closest residential property is only 148 feet from the edge of the football field, while wetlands along the shore of Lake Wingra are only 0.21 miles distant. The lake is highly valued for its wilderness ambience. It's mostly surrounded by the UW Arboretum, parks, and the Zoo. When paddling on the lake, urban landscape is invisible. At night, it's magical to paddle or walk around its shores, listening to owls or watching fireflies pursue their mates. When so few quiet and

dark places can still be found, the lake is indeed a precious resource.

The EIA's overall conclusion is: "No significant environmental impacts are identified." This prediction flows from their conclusion that very little of anything will escape from the field into the neighborhood.

Impacts of proposed loudspeakers

Edgewood High proposes "directional" speakers pointed towards the stands and away from neighbors. However, sound does not travel in straight lines--it can bend around obstacles, pass through walls, and be reflected. While the speakers will face away from close neighbors, the sound they project will bounce off the stadium and especially the large buildings behind the stadium, creating annoying echoes.

Gradations in air temperature and wind can bend sound. For example, on a summer night, the air near the ground quickly cools, while air higher up remains warm. This gradient means that sound

that might normally escape upward can bend back toward the neighborhood, increasing sound intensity. It also means that under certain conditions sound can travel over sound barriers and back to ground level, rendering the barriers less effective.

Madison's noise ordinance sets a limit on sound levels reaching residential properties at 65 dBA. Ethan Brodsky found noise from the unimproved stadium frequently exceeded the 65 dBA limit during practice games with small numbers of spectators. The highest level--84 dBA--was measured this spring by Marie Trest during a game with 150-200 spectators.

Impacts of proposed lighting

The EIA evaluates four banks of lights on 80-foot poles, directed down towards the field. They praise the technology of these new LED lights that are supposed to minimize spillover to the neighborhood or sky, sending most of their light to illuminate the field.

But light is not so well-behaved in the real world. First of all, not all of the light will reach the field--some will be scattered in all directions by dust and moisture. The remaining light, even if perfectly aimed at just the field, will bounce off the field and players, into the sky and neighborhood.

Brodsky said: "In their application to the City, Edgewood HS included upward-facing lights (called "punt lights") that would violate the City's dark-sky ordinance, but did not mention that they were upward-facing in either the EIA or the light application."

Unfortunately, this escaping light--creating a glow overhead and illumination equivalent to twilight in the neighborhood, will be an unhealthy color. Edgewood is proposing LED lights with a color temperature of 5700K. These lights actually emit lots of blue--and blue light has the greatest impact on the biological clock of humans, leading to potential insomnia, weight gain, and other unhealthy effects. The AMA recommends a color temperature of 3000K or less.

Even very low levels of light pollution can have profound effects. Under the forest canopy, on a cloudy night, it's extremely dark. Add scattered light from the stadium, and predators can now see their prey. Animals or people looking toward the stadium will lose their dark adaptation.

Impacts on wildlife and natural values

The EIA concludes: "Long-term adverse biological impacts are not anticipated" because the immediate project area is developed land.

"Plans will not interfere with any aquatic species."

But everyone knows how insects from woods or lake are attracted to bright light. The Edgewood stadium light will act like a giant vacuum cleaner sucking aquatic insects out of the wetlands nearby.

Scientists have recently found a decline in insect numbers of over 75% on several continents. Changes in climate and pesticides alone aren't enough to account for this decline. Because half of all insects are active at night, and because insect declines are greater in areas with light pollution, scientists suspect light pollution is one cause

Likewise, migratory birds are attracted to light, especially when they are lost in fog. In Hawaii, the lights at football fields of three high schools confused fledgling birds, who circled around the lights until they fell, exhausted, to the ground.

While there are many scientific reports about the harmful effects on wildlife, plants, and people of noise and light pollution, relatively little is known of how the pollution causes harm. One recent study of migratory birds set up a "phantom road" using loudspeakers to broadcast traffic sounds within a natural area. They found fewer birds near the speakers, compared to control areas without speakers, and the birds near the speakers weighed less. Another study suggested why: White-throated sparrows subjected to noise cannot hear the alarm calls of other birds, so they compensate by watching more and feeding less.

Weak on numbers, analysis, and mitigation

Brodsky found factual errors in the EIA and the sound study on which it is based. The EIA states that 70 dBA is allowed by the noise ordinance, whereas it's actually 65 dBA. He adds that the analysis of barrier height needed to reduce escaping noise is flawed, along with the measurement of background noise. He made additional measurements of light levels which contradict the EIA.

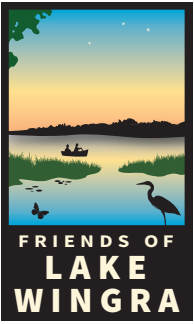
Nowhere does the report state the proposed increase in impervious surfaces (roofs, pavement), although I suspect that at least the storage and bathroom areas will have roofs. Nor do they propose how they will improve infiltration using rain gardens. LEED certification will not be sought. They do not propose to lessen the effect of lights on migratory birds by restricting games during migration or canceling games on nights when heavy migration is forecast.

Climate change ignored

An environmental assessment cannot be taken seriously without an estimation of the project's carbon footprint. No footprint was calculated here; climate change is not mentioned once in the report.

Climate change is the greatest challenge of this century. All citizens and institutions need to do their part by actually reducing nonrenewable energy use. There is no plan in the EIA to offset increased energy use at the stadium by solar generation. What example does it set for Edgewood High students when their school leaders ignore climate change?

For more information, visit www.nonewstadium.org



Friends of Lake Wingra
PO Box 45071
Madison, WI 53744

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Every spring and summer our volunteers buzz around the watershed busy as bees. They are the rain gauge to our rain garden, the paddle to our kayak. Without them, and our donors, Friends of Lake Wingra would not exist! Help us give a big thank you to 2019's spring and summer volunteers.

FY 19 Board of Directors: John Armstrong, Roger Bannerman, Hannah Buscemi, Matthew Byars, Ian Krauss, Tim Kuhman, David Thompson, Ben Yahr

Frog and Toad Monitors: Meg Domroese, Roylene Garrett, Gibson Family, Eileen LaBarre, Carolyn Micek, Lisa Riehl, Ann Rivlin, Rosanne Theis, Nola Walker

Donor Mailing Design: Jamie Flanigan (Concrete - Creative)

Badger Volunteers: Matthew Bosshardt, Hannah Buscemi, Ariel Feldman, Emily Rau, Patrick Ross

WINGRA WATERSHED NEWS

*Promoting a healthy Lake Wingra through
an active watershed community.*

SUMMER 2019 • VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 2

