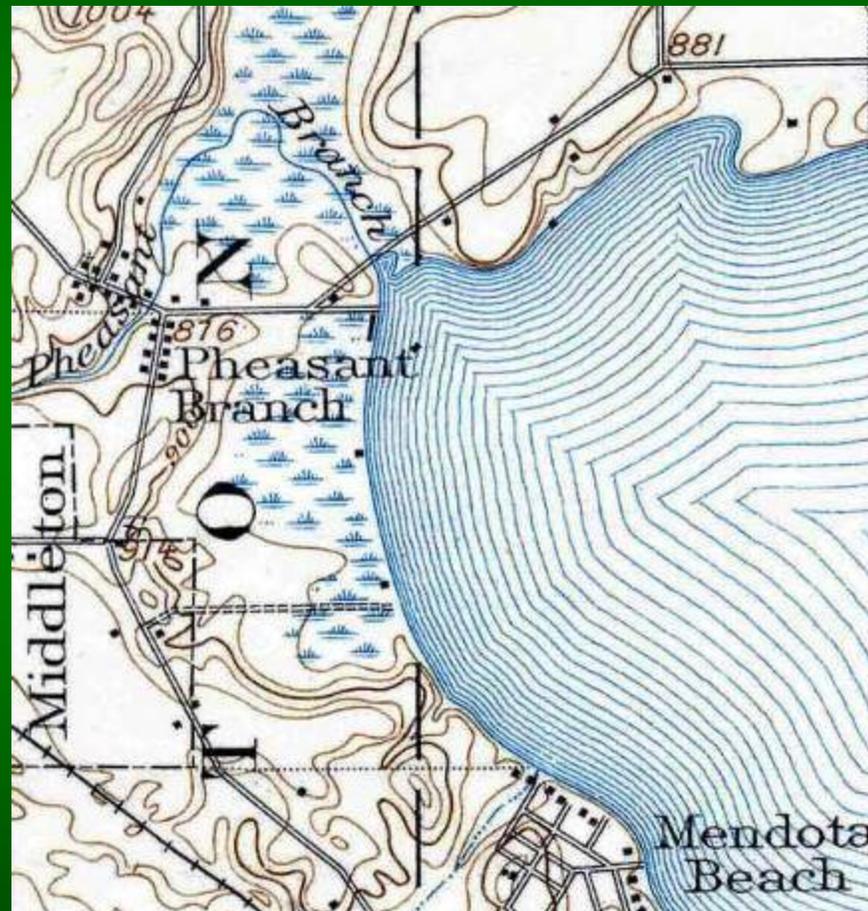


Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005

*by Bob Wernerehl
Native Thumb
Environmental
Consulting*

*Photos by Bob
Wernerehl unless
otherwise cited or
hyperlinked to a source*

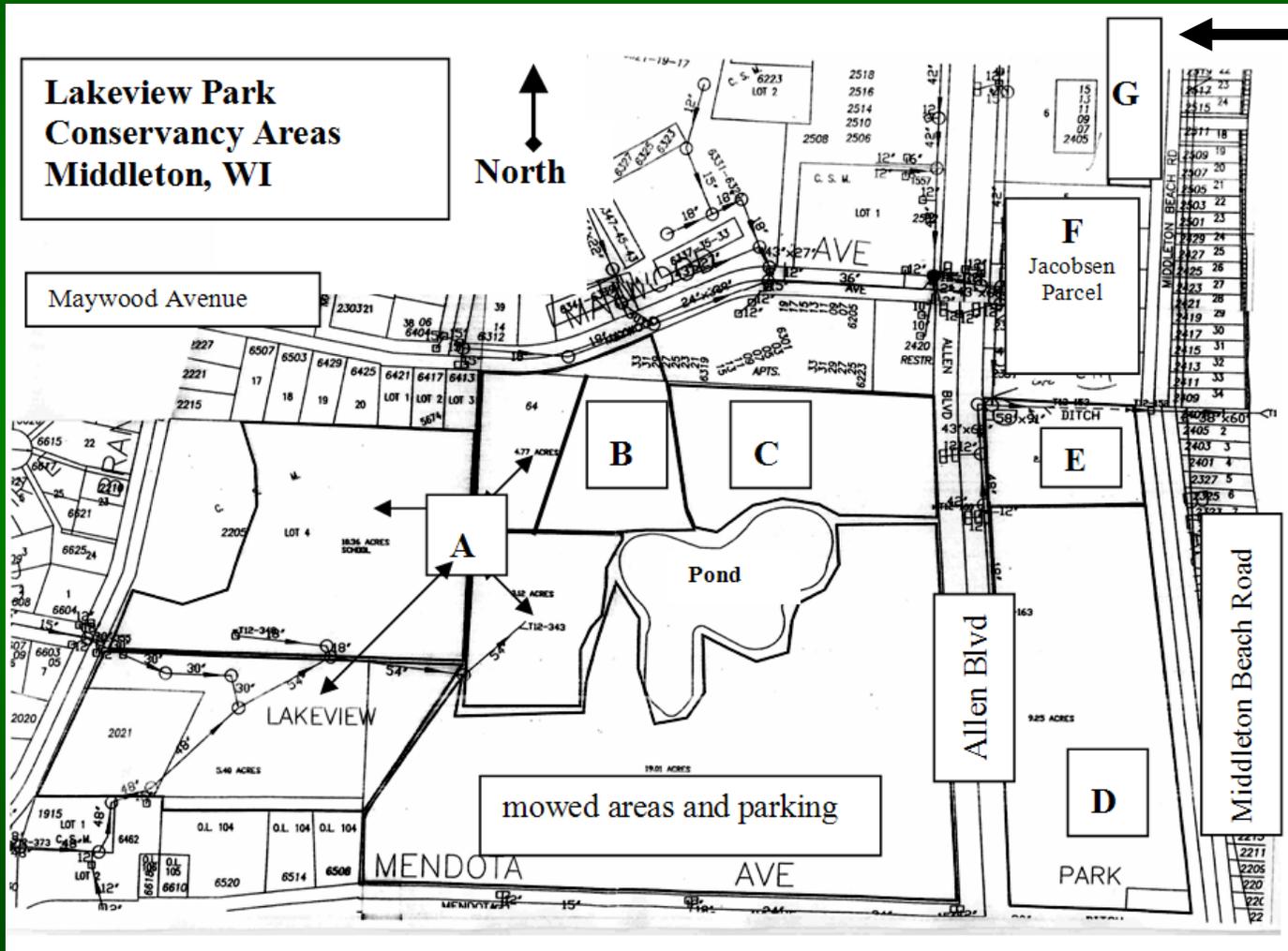


Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background

Lakeview Park is a park in the City of Middleton, Dane County Wisconsin. The park spans 60 acres and is in mixed use. 39 Acres are zoned conservancy and had not undergone an ecological assessment or ecological planning.

With that in mind, Clark Forestry, Inc, of Baraboo, Wisconsin, was hired to complete an plan and ecological assessment. I was the lead author in the report.

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background



Target Area is Area G

Map Showing Overview of Lakeview Park Straddling Allen Boulevard in City of Middleton Areas are labeled for the plan

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background

This air photo from 1950 shows an extensive wetland in the area. Allen Boulevard had not been built. Mendota Avenue cuts across the south portion and intersects Middleton Beach Road. There is one small ditch draining the wetland. Notice the lack of trees in the Lakeview Park area.



Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background

Back on the ground, the assessment showed that most of the park had been a wetland until relatively recently, and it had, as expected, wetlands soils, primarily Houghton Muck. The plan therefore called for restoration of some wetland communities.



A two-foot-long shovel-full of dried up Houghton muck, a wetland soil. This sample was placed in a cardboard box. In normal wetland conditions the soil would be saturated. Conditions at Lakeview have caused the soil to dry and oxidize.

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background

In addition, many non-native, aggressive invasive species had taken hold, choking out good native plants and reducing the value of the area for wildlife



Lakeview Park
City of Middleton

Buckthorn (left) and white mulberry (right) were common

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background

Recent high water along Middleton Beach highlighted the need to retain or create as much water holding capacity within the plan as possible.



Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background

An area was found along Middleton Beach Road (MBR) that was a likely candidate for a small restoration, practicable within the scoop of the wetland incentive grants which are small in scale. This became "Area G" in the plan for Lakeview Park Conservancy Areas

A reference natural community was identified nearby that was quite similar in structure to Area G. It had some appealing features. This was the buttonbush depression found about 25 miles northwest of the site along the Wisconsin River.

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 **Background**

A reference community was found.



Lakeview Park
City of Middleton

A buttonbush depression along the Wisconsin River.

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background

Data were collected on the reference community and used to design the restoration, both in structure and in composition.

Public meetings were held to discuss the assessment and plan for the entire park, including Area G.

There were two inherent problems with the site: part of the site was not in city ownership and, secondly, there were a lot of dead "hazard trees," mostly tall cottonwoods and willows that may have died with the recent high water.

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background

But some other interesting native plants were also found on the site, making the restoration more interesting, more diverse, and more meaningful!



Ranunculus scleratus - "cursed crowfoot"
a native wetland species

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 [Background](#)

With all these things in mind, Penni Klein, Middleton's Public Lands Manager and the manager for this site, suggested we write a grant to the WDNR. She found a special category of Lake Management Grant that was especially for municipalities, called the 10K Wetland Incentive Grant. It provides up to \$10,000 for activities as long as the state does not pay more than 75 percent of the total restoration costs. The grant was submitted and accepted for funding!

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Background

Permission was obtained from the other landowner to cross into the property and also remove nuisance species that did not fit into the restoration plan.

A plan was put in place to remove hazard trees and other nuisance species.

A neighborhood walk through took place to discuss the plan with the residents along Middleton Beach Road.

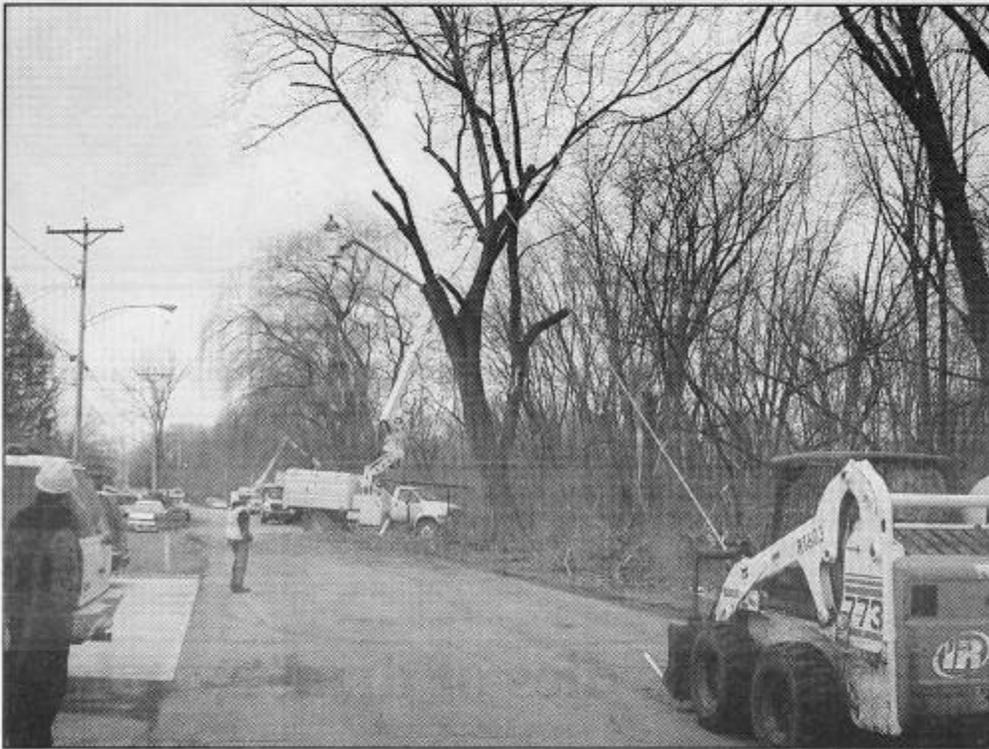
Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Plan Installation

Hazard tree removal was a key part, for which the city covered the costs separately from the grant. A critical donation came from Madison Gas and Electric who helped to remove the largest trees. A crew from Clark Forestry and Bassett Tree Service also removed hazard trees. Other city organized work crews removed invasive species. The costs for this accounted for a large share of the city's match of the DNR funds.

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 - Installation

CITY OF MIDDLETON

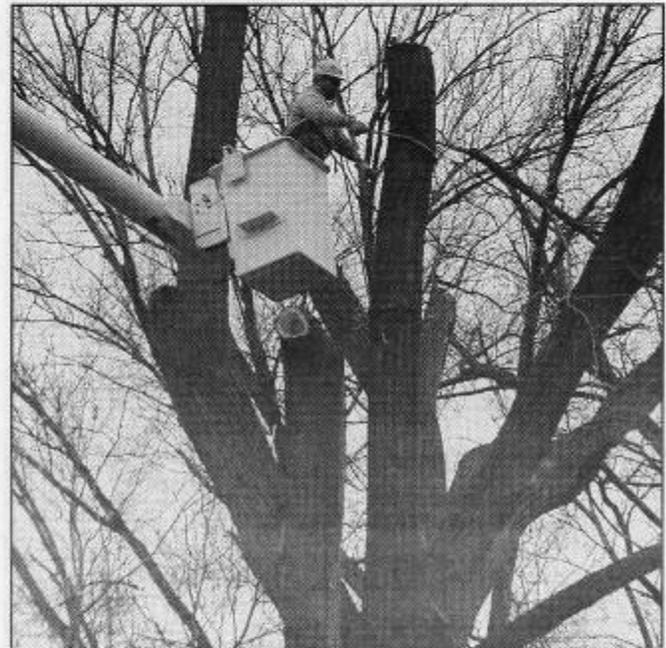
Hazardous tree removal on Middleton Beach Road



Times-Tribune photos by George Zens

Above: A rope wrapped around the branch that's being cut prevents it from dropping uncontrolled to the ground and maybe causing damage.

Above right: The rope is tightened before the cutting begins.



by **GEORGE ZENS**

Times-Tribune

The forest area between Middleton Beach Road and Allen Boulevard at first sight looks like a healthy natural habitat. A closer inspection however reveals that it mainly contains cotton woods and other other invasive species that threaten the original natural habitat near the lake.

As a first step towards full restora-

tion of that natural habitat, MGE-crews, supervised by City Forester Harry Libby and Nathan Eisner of Clark Forestry, removed the hazardous trees close to the powerlines with special heavy equipment.

As Eisner explained, some of the tree trunks, at a great enough distance from the roads and buildings so as not to cause a danger, have been left standing - as affordable housing for woodpeckers and other birds.

Lakeview Park City of Middleton The mess after hazard tree removal!



Lakeview Park City of Middleton

A brand new fence was built.

Restorations in an urban setting sometimes run into “viewscape” issues. When clearing the site, the view of the back side of Harbor Athletic Club became unobstructed. What to do? Build a nice looking wooden fence! This money came entirely from neighbors, not from the city or DNR.



The Middleton Eagle Scouts helped to design and build the fence using rough cut, local, rot-resistant black locust.

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Plan Installation

Nursery stock and seeds were purchased. Arbor day came and it was time to plant!



Lakeview Park
City of Middleton

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Plan Installation

Plantings included
buttonbush, swamp white
oak, river birch, and many
wildflower species.



Lakeview Park
City of Middleton

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Plan Installation

It is too soon to see how all the wildflowers are doing but the site looks great, with hazard trees gone and some open, native wetland species, like this lake sedge, thriving.



Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Site Response

This swamp
currant is
thriving in
the
restoration
due to the
higher light
levels from
removal of
the invasive
species.



Swamp Currant in full bloom 2 May 2006 on the site. This will produce edible fruit for both humans and wildlife

Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Site Response

Marsh
Marigolds have
reappeared on
the site,
without being
planted,
showing that
native wetland
species will
return on their
own if the site
is handled
properly.



Lakeview Park City
of Middleton
Wetland Incentive
Grant 2003-2005
Site Response

Some trees were topped off and will act over time as “critter condos” for cavity dwelling birds and mammals. This tree would support an Osprey Nest Platform!



Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 Plan Installation

A permanent sign is in place thanking all the cooperators and the Wetland Incentive Grant, (Lake Management Protection Grant)

Thank You
One and All!



Lakeview Park City of Middleton Wetland Incentive Grant 2003-2005 The Budget

What did we spend and for what?

Professional fees	\$	5162.94
Construction	\$	2957.08
Plant Material	\$	3211.95
DOCC Crew & Donations	\$	6459.91
Total expenditures	\$	17,791.80
Cost Overrun	\$	2597.38
Grantee Share	\$	8827.38
DNR Share 10 K Grant	\$	8964.50
Total Project Costs	\$	17,791.88