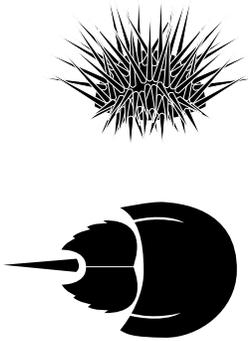


## II. Park History and Background

### A. Geologic History of Kohler-Andrae

Two billion years ago mountains covered Wisconsin's landscape. Weathering processes eroded these mountains. From about 600 to 350 million years ago, Wisconsin's land surface buckled up and down. At this time, according to Continental Drift theory, Wisconsin and the rest of the continent were closer to the equator, and the environment was much warmer. During the down buckling, large, inland tropical seas invaded and covered most of Wisconsin. Four seas, the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, and Devonian, invaded and retreated from Wisconsin's landscape.



These ancient seas were shallow. They deposited thick layers of sediments -sand, silt, and clay. As the seas deepened, small lime-bearing plants and animals that lived in the sea died and fell into the sediments. The types of fossils that remain prove to geologists that the seas were filled with salt water, not fresh water.

Under tremendous pressure, these sediments cemented together forming sedimentary rocks. They formed the base of Niagara limestone under this park. It is interesting to note that it takes roughly 1,100 years to create a vertical inch of limestone, and about 800 years for sandstone. Mother Nature certainly is patient!

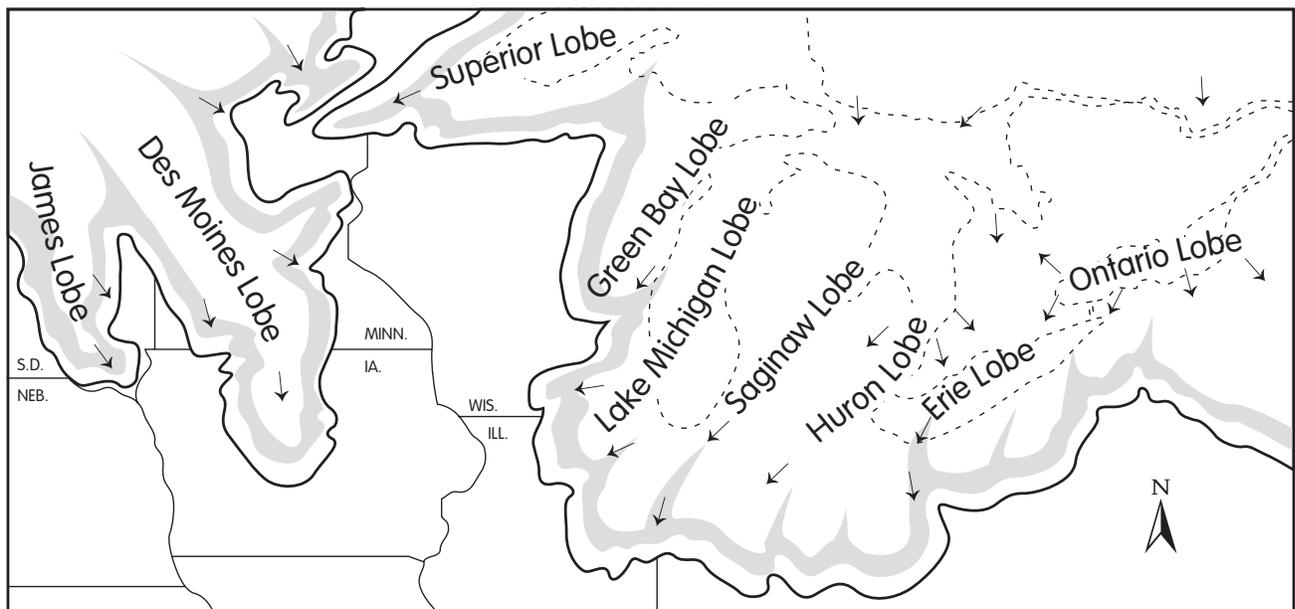
Let's jump ahead to one million years before today. Wisconsin witnessed the beginning of the Great Ice Age. Four different glaciers moved through Wisconsin, first the Kansan, second the Nebraskan, third the Illinoian, and the last, the Wisconsinan.

About 14,000 years ago, the Wisconsinan glacier covered all but southwestern Wisconsin. During that time, Kohler-Andrae was covered with a great sheet of ice at least one mile thick!

Before the glaciers swept through the Great Lakes, there was probably a large river that flowed where Lake Michigan is today. Two lobes composed Wisconsinan's leading edge. The Lake Michigan lobe swept through the ancient Michigan River valley. The Green Bay lobe swept through the ancient Menominee River valley. The two lobes deepened and widened the ancient valley's basins.

As the Wisconsinan glacier melted and retreated, the two basins filled with melt-water. This began a series of ancient glacial lakes, each named for a distinct stage. The first lake, Glacial Lake Chicago, existed around 15,000-11,000 years before present (B.P.). Lake levels reached 640 feet above sea level.

By 11,000 B.P., the glacier retreated enough to expose and fill the five major Great Lake basins; this stage was the Glacial Lake



Algonquin. Lake levels ranged around 600 feet. Fir forests and tundra dominated the landscape. Glacial Lake Chippewa formed around 6,000 B.C. when lake levels were very low.

Glacial Lake Nipissing existed between 5,000-4,000 B.P. after the glacier retreated far into Canada. Lake levels were high, 605 feet above sea level, and over 20 feet of water covered Kohler-Andrae. Remnants of the Lake Nipissing shoreline are visible in the park. Nipissing was the last of ancient glacial lakes. Conifer forests and tundra gave way to deciduous woodlands in this warmer climate. Gradually, lake levels lowered and stabilized to the Modern Great Lakes.

Modern Lake Michigan is the sixth largest fresh water lake in the world and the only Great Lake that exists solely in the United States. Kohler-Andrae rests on the shore of a lake which has seen much history. An outdoor exhibit about Lake Michigan is on display near the concession building.

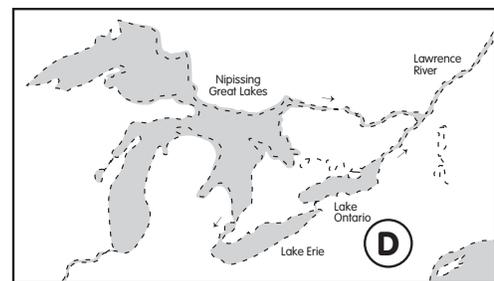
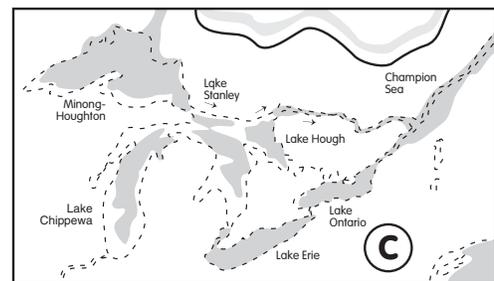
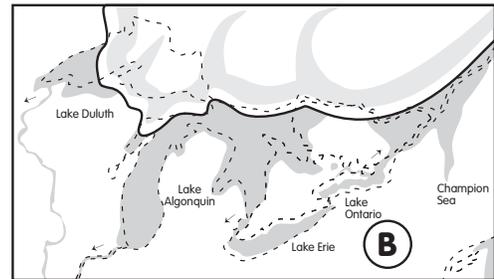
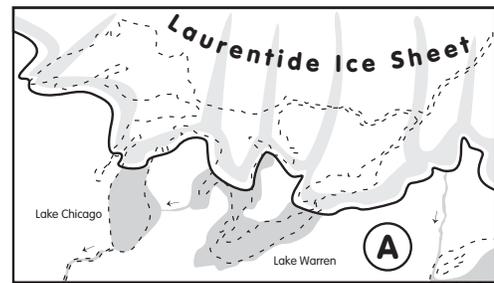
## B. Human History of Kohler-Andrae

### Pre-Historic Native Americans

Around the time of Glacial Lake Chicago, people crossed the Bering Strait from Eastern Asia. From about 10,000-7,000 B.C., Paleo-Indians lived and hunted in the Great Lakes region just in front of the great ice sheets. They subsisted on gigantic mammoths, mastodon, giant beavers and bison which they killed with spears tipped with sharp, chipped-stone spear points. Paleo-Indians were nomadic hunters following the herds of game living in the region.

The Glacial Lake Chippewa witnessed the Aqua-Plano Indians in the region. They lived on the shores of the ancient glacial lakes and hunted as the Paleo-Indians had. Most of their campsites are under water today.

The Archaic Boreal Indians lived in this region by about 5,000-500 B.C. They hunted deer, bears, and other game using spear-throwers. The climate was much warmer and deciduous woodlands grew. The Copper Culture dominated parts of the region from 5000 -1500 B.C. These people mined copper to make tools and weapons. The Copper Culture were the first metal fabricators of North and South America.



With increased dependence on local food supplies and copper trade, the Indians were less nomadic. Fish hooks and spear points made their lives easier.

Several Indian tribes inhabited the Kohler-Andrae area after the Archaic and Copper Cultures. The Early Woodland Indians tended gardens in addition to hunting. Around 1500 B.C., these woodland Indians grew squash, gourds, maize, and beans.

### Historic Indians

From 100 B.C. to 1634 A.D., the Hopewell Indians established their homes in the Kohler-Andrae area. They built elaborate burial mounds and created ceramic vessels and stone pipes. The Effigy mound builders





inhabited the area and built animal shaped earthen mounds. This culture mysteriously disappeared. Examples of Effigy Mounds can be seen at Indian Mound Park located north of Kohler-Andrae.

In more recent times, several tribes have lived in the area, including the Chippewas, Menomonies, Potawatomies, Winnebago, Ottawas and Sauk. In the spring, the Indians fished along the lakeshore catching fish for their summer food supply. Indians used bone and metal fish hooks, harpoons and nets to catch fish.

Indian villages consisted of seasonally constructed bark wigwams; these villages were not permanent. Fields of corn and potatoes surrounded the wigwams. By the 1830's the Indians lived in mixed tribe villages.

Such a village, the "Andrae Village," was located in the southern part of the park. A second village, the "Black River Village," was located along the lakeshore north of the park's boundary.

In 1833, the Indian tribes ceded to the U.S. government all land along the western shore of Lake Michigan. Although by the terms of the treaty the Indians were to vacate the area, Potawatomies continued to reside along the Black River in or near the park until 1877.

Pre-historic and historic Indian artifacts are displayed in the nature center.



### Explorers and Fur Traders

Jean Nicolet was the first white explorer believed to have visited this area. He visited with the Winnebago Indians near Green Bay in 1634. Later, between 1665 and 1670, Nicholas Perrot spent time in this region, much of it with the Potawatomies who lived here. Father Jaques Marquette and several other missionaries explored the western shore of Lake Michigan by canoe from 1673-1699.

In 1795, Jacques Vieau, a Frenchman, visited the Sheboygan area to establish a Northwest Fur Company post. This fur company and the American Fur Company dominated area trade until 1868. Trade goods and furs were transported by canoe along the lakeshore to Green Bay and Milwaukee. Indians traded hides of bear, deer, moose, and pelts of muskrat, beaver, lynx, otter, and marten for blankets, clothes, knives, axes and other goods.

### Settlers

The government first surveyed the land along the Sheboygan lakeshore between 1833 and 1836. The first surveyors kept detailed field notes on the location of rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands, types and quality of timber, soil conditions, and the location of Indian villages and trails.

An Indian trail existed near Kohler-Andrae extending from Green Bay to Milwaukee. In 1825, the U.S. military used the trail to drive cattle from Chicago to Green Bay to supply Fort Howard. The first postal carrier used the trail to carry mail from Milwaukee to Green Bay.

Under the Public Land Law of 1820, the government sold public lands along the lakeshore. Land was auctioned off in tracts of 80-640 acres for \$1.25 per acre. This was a time of fierce land speculation, so not all parcels were sold at once. Land speculators bought up huge tracts of land and sold them later at a profit.

David Wilson was the first to settle here. In 1840, Wilson, his wife and children settled along the lake shore and established a fishery. The Osgood brothers, James and Leonard, arrived in 1845, settling along the shore just north of the park's boundary. The brothers engaged in fishing. Joseph Fairchild and his family arrived a year later and also set up a fishery. These 19th century fishermen and their families formed a small community along the lakeshore where the park is today.

Those living along the lakeshore predominantly engaged in fishing. In the 19th century, fishing was not the pleasant sport it is today. It was arduous and dangerous requiring long hours of back breaking labor and the wages were poor. In those days, lake herring sold for 3 cents per pound and white fish sold for 15-20 cents per pound. David Wilson and the Osgood brothers drowned in the lake while fishing.



The dunes along the lake shore were logged of much of the white pine during the latter part of the 19th century. A few lakeshore residents attempted to farm on the logged land. Corn and buckwheat stripped off what was left of the thin topsoil. Grazing was deemed the only use of the dunes. Prior to 1925, farmers and others considered the lakeshore land worthless. No one would purchase the land and pay taxes on unproductive land. What a change from today!

Interest in lake frontage property developed after World War II. With the advent of automobiles, the well-to-do Milwaukee population, seeking a country refuge from the city, discovered the lakeshore. Prices for lake frontage sky-rocketed.



### Marine History

The waters between Sheboygan and Port Washington witnessed many shipwrecks. Over fifty vessels wrecked in this area alone. The shore of Kohler-Andrae has been the final resting place for many of these shipwrecks.

Park staff recovered a ship's timber from one of these wrecks in the spring of 1982. The timber was partially imbedded in sand at the waterline north of Beach Park Lane. The white oak timber represents a section of a 19th century sailing vessel's keel. Evidence established that the keel belongs to an 87 foot long schooner, the *Challenge*.

The schooner, constructed by William Bates at Manitowoc in 1852, wrecked in the immediate vicinity of Kohler-Andrae. The *Challenge* represented the first centerboard clipper type schooner ever constructed.

The *Challenge's* keel rests outside the entrance to the Sanderling Nature Center. An outdoor exhibit depicts construction details of the keel section as well as information on the lake's historic fisheries.

## C. Recent Park History

### Terry Andrae State Park

In 1924, Frank Theodore (Terry) Andrae purchased 92 acres of lakeshore property from a retired fisherman and later purchased another 30 acres. Mr. Andrae, the president of Julius Andrae and Sons' Electric Supply Company in Milwaukee, and his wife built a two story second home overlooking the lake where today's campground rests. This

home was known as "Henriette Lodge," a popular place for entertaining the Andraes' guests.

Botany and horticulture interested Mrs. Andrae. She hired several forestry consultants to reforest their property. This project was no small expense.

After her husband's death in 1927, Mrs. Andrae donated all 122 acres of her pine dunes to the State of Wisconsin to open the lakeshore for wide public appreciation. This section of lakeshore would become a reservation for the people of Wisconsin. In 1929, Terry Andrae State Park officially opened.

An exhibit in the nature center depicts the Andraes' history and contribution to the park.

### John Michael Kohler State Park

A native of Austria, John M. Kohler, at the age of ten, and his family emigrated to America in 1854. In 1871, he moved to Sheboygan, married Lillie Vollrath, and joined his father-in-law's machine shop and foundry. In 1914, this business became the Kohler Company.

The Kohler Company today is the leading industry in Sheboygan county and the second largest plumbing manufacturer in the nation. Mr. Kohler contributed to many civic organizations including social and cultural centers in the Sheboygan area. He founded the Sheboygan Humane Society and Friendship House.

In 1966, the Kohler Company of Kohler, Wisconsin, donated a parcel of land totalling 280 acres. The property is a memorial to John Michael Kohler. The donated property lies just to the north of Terry Andrae State Park.

An exhibit in the nature center depicts the Kohler's history and contribution to the park.

### Kohler-Andrae Today

In the years following both the Kohler and Andrae donations, the State of Wisconsin purchased additional property bringing the total acreage of both parks to 1,000 acres. Although still considered two properties with adjacent boundaries, the Department of Natural Resources manages the parks as one unit.

