The Willow Drive Willows

Madison

At the end of North Livingston Street on Lake Mendota were willows said to have come from the grave of Napoleon on St. Helena. Other willows made a tunneled roadway of Willow Drive along the lake on the UW–Madison campus. These trees were planted under the direction of President Thomas Chamberlain with the assistance of Professor John Olin in the 1880s.

Road expansion in 2004 required removing most of the willows growing between Picnic Point and the Boat Launch. Thirty-eight willows along with river birch and swamp white oaks, for diversity, have been planted so that the famed Willow Drive will continue to be one of the most beautiful drives in Madison.

Source: Daniel Einstein, Madison