

## LAND USE

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**Friends**

likely to adversely affect this unique and critical area.

Ellen Barnard, leader of the Friends group, says that when she attended the February hearing regarding planned new development by Cherokee Park, Inc. she realized that no environmental group dedicated to preserving Cherokee Marsh and the watershed currently existed. She decided that now was the time to form a group of concerned citizens who would have a voice in the decisions that may put these delicate areas at risk.

Three dozen people attended the first meeting, included Pat Woicsek, long-time naturalist for the Cherokee Conservation Park; three County Board members; representatives from local fishing organizations and neighborhood residents from throughout the Northside. Laura Hewitt from the Friends of Starkweather Creek and Don Hammes from the Friends of Pheasant Branch also attended to share the stories of their success in the face of major obstacles and intimidating odds.

Woicsek sees the urgent need for a Friends group because of potential construction silt and the increased runoff caused by the proposed Cherokee Park, Inc. development. In a recent letter to the Wisconsin State Journal, she wrote that "development... sends runoff filled with sediments, fertilizers and chemicals into our rivers and lakes, lowering their quality by promoting excessive plant growth (algae and water weeds) which renders the water undesirable at best and occasionally unsafe for fishing, boating and swimming."

Attendees were urged to contact their elected officials with their issues and volunteers were requested for a steering committee which would begin work immediately to finalize goals for the organization and coordinate the details necessary for effective action.

*The next meeting of the Friends group will take place on Wednesday, June 21 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. at the Sherman United Methodist Church, 3705 N. Sherman Ave. Interested members of the community are invited to attend. Contact Ellen Barnard at 576-3734 for more information.*

**Residents weigh in on proposed development**

*The city has its own plan for the Cherokee Park area*

*The Northside News*

There were no lack of opinions at the April 25 public meeting on the posed Cherokee Park development. Two hundred people turned out to hear what city planners were proposing for the area, and then took their turn over two and a half hours, telling the planner what they thought.

Planners from the Madison Planning Unit unveiled a draft special area plan for the 200 acres east of Cherokee marsh and north of the Whitetail Ridge neighborhood. Planners decided to develop such a plan because of the magnitude of the proposed development by Cherokee Park, Inc. Two previous meetings by the developer outlined their long-range plans for the area.

The draft plan presented at the Warner Park Center meeting mapped out what the city's comprehensive plan called for. The Plan Commission and Common Council eventually would need to approve the plan.

While many speakers had questions for the city staff, and some had recommendations about types of housing in the various parcels under consideration. Whitetail Ridge neighborhood Association President Shelley Legried stated that her neighbors wanted any development due north of them to be compatible with their own housing type—single-family homes, not the mix of single family units and duplex/townhouse units in the draft plan. "I hear you," Madison Planning Unit Director Brad Murphy responded.

Especially contentious was the plan's designation of the Wheeler Road/Comanche Way northwest cor-



**Two hundred people view the map projection at Warner Park Center**

ner as appropriate for condominiums. The adjacent Comanche Way residents wanted single family homes in a small portion of the parcel that would allow for the natural character of much of it to be retained.

Many of the speakers late in the evening addressed conservation issues. Indeed, when several speakers spoke of not developing at all and protecting the city's "finest park"—Cherokee Conservation Park, which borders the proposed development area—dozens of people broke out in spontaneous applause.

According to Murphy, city planners will present the draft special area plan at a special Plan Commission meeting in June. Based on feedback, planners will either revise the plan and submit it

to the Plan Commission and Common Council for adoption into the Comprehensive Plan; or the planners might bring it back to a public meeting for additional comment.

At the same time, Cherokee Park, Inc. will be able to submit its annexation plan. Detailed parcel-specific plans by the developer will only be submitted after the special area plan is adopted.

*The draft special are plan can be found the city's website at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/plan.html> under "What's New?"*

*The date of the special the Plan Commission meeting will be posted on Northside Online at [www.northside-news.org](http://www.northside-news.org).*



**City Planning Unit Director Brad Murphy**

**Northside paddlers rack one up**  
*Canoe rack installed at Cherokee Marsh*

A canoe/kayak storage rack has been installed at Cherokee Park, at the north end of the mowed area, off Burning Wood Way.

The annual fee for renting a berth is \$75, with contracts available through City of Madison Parks employee Pat Hario (267-1105 or PHario@cityofmadison.com).

Two other Parks employees, Fritz Kroncke and Si Widstrand, facilitated provision of the first Northside rack.

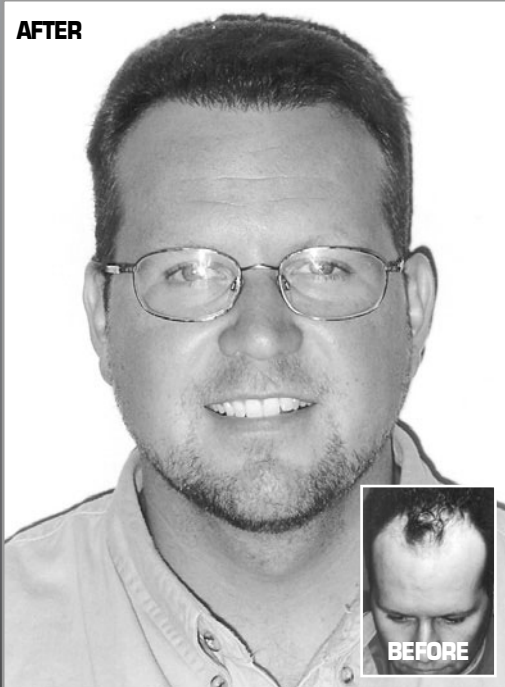
The 8-berth rack, similar to those in use in Tenney Park, will allow storage of a craft near the water. That's of particular help to solo paddlers or those without residential storage space.

If the Cherokee Park location proves successful, perhaps more canoe/kayak racks will be installed on the Northside.

The installation of the rack followed a "needs survey" posted on the Northside Discuss listserve.

Respondents rated Cherokee Park as the best of three proposed locations, because of protected water and nearby homes that may discourage vandalism or theft. Warner Park beach and the Cherokee Conservation Park landing site on the north end of School Road were also of interest.

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