

Article for March/April 2004 Issue of Eastside NEWS

City Proposes Improvements to Shoreline between Hudson Beach and Olbrich Park

On January 22nd, city engineering staff held a public meeting at Olbrich Gardens to discuss improvements to the shoreline from Hudson Beach to Olbrich Park to take place next winter. This project addresses a number of improvements to correct shoreline erosion, bluff erosion, trail erosion, access to Hudson Beach, and replacement of the 1917 sewer line. The city's preliminary plan includes a shoreline path between Hudson Beach and Olbrich Park, construction of two or three levels leading from the street to Hudson Beach, and the potential for extending the path from Hudson Beach to Yahara Place Park when that portion of the sewer is repaired.

At the meeting, different types of trails and shoreline protection were discussed. Glacial boulders similar to those existing at the site were preferred to less durable limestone. A narrow hiking trail built at the base of the slope was considered a better alternative than constructing a wide trail terraced into the hill that would require retaining walls. Other suggestions made by neighbors at the meeting included: use of good materials and construction to last for many years; better access to the water or ice at Hudson Beach; protection of the Indian mounds and more interpretive signs; control erosion from street gutter overflow; improve the trail along Lakeland Avenue; narrow Lakeland Avenue on the lake side to provide more room for the walking/jogging trail; and, continue the lakeshore path west from Olbrich to Yahara Place Park.

Another project meeting between city staff and the neighborhood is scheduled for July. The city is still accepting comments. Questions and comments can be directed to Kari Nichols at knichols@cityofmadison.com. When making plans for the summer, remember the annual Hudson Beach Brat and Lake Weed Fest in June. Pictures from last year's fest are available at: www.sasyna.org/Hudson/hudson2003.html.

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Neighborhood Resident