

**A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed
Lake Waconia Regional Park, Coney Island of the West,
Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota
Township 116N, Range 25W, Sections 12 & 13**

SHPO Review and Compliance Number: Pending

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FINAL REPORT**



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Management Summary/Abstract

Blondo Consulting, LLC was retained by Carver County Parks to complete a Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Lake Waconia Regional Park, Coney Island of the West, in Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota. The project is located in Township 116N, Range 25W, Sections 12 and 13 in a heavily wooded island setting. The proposed project will involve the cleanup and removal of vegetation and historic building remnants, the addition of camp and picnicking areas, and the installation of walking trails throughout the island.

The project is subject for review under Minnesota Statute 138: Field Archaeology and the Historic Sites Act. Section 138.665 Subdivision 2 of this act states, "The state, state departments, agencies, and political subdivisions, including the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, have a responsibility to protect the physical features and historic character of properties designated in section 138.662 and 138.664 or listed on the National Register of Historic Places created by Public Law 89-665. Before carrying out any undertaking that will affect designated or listed properties, or funding or licensing an undertaking by other parties, the state department or agency shall consult with the Minnesota Historical Society pursuant to the society's established procedures to determine appropriate treatments and to seek ways to avoid and mitigate any adverse effects on designated or listed properties. If the state department or agency and the Minnesota Historical Society agree in writing on a suitable course of action, the project may proceed" (The Revisor of Statutes 2014). This requires a cultural resource survey be completed. This survey answers that request. Blondo Consulting, LLC completed this survey in consultation with Nienow Cultural Consultants, LLC. Jeremy Nienow, PhD, RPA and Kelly Wolf, MA, RPA were the Principal Investigators for this project. They meet the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards. Steven J. Blondo, MA was the project manager.

One Area of Potential Effect (APE) was identified for the project. The APE for direct effect is limited to the area where the project will take place. This APE is limited to the area of potential disturbance. For this project, the APE consists of the entirety of Coney Island in Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota.

At project commencement, historical background research and a literature search were completed at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), in the archives at the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), the Carver County Historical Society, as well as interviews with longtime Waconia residents. This research helped to create a history of the island and identify if previously recorded archaeological and architectural sites exist within the project APE. Previously recorded archaeological sites on the island as well as on the nearby shores of Lake Waconia were addressed during this search to assist in developing a site context to better understand the prehistory of the area. The background search identified one previously recorded archaeological alpha site on the island within the APE. Coney Island of the West has been previously recorded as a Historic District

and is listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*. An additional eight previously recorded archaeological sites were identified surrounding Lake Waconia.

Fieldwork was completed by Blondo Consulting, LLC in consultation with Nienow Cultural Consultants, LLC on October 10, 16 through 21, and November 1 through 4, 2016. A Phase I cultural resources reconnaissance survey was completed and identified a previously unrecorded prehistoric cultural component on the island. A record of all remaining historic buildings was also completed. Coney Island of the West was previously listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* as a Historic District. Blondo Consulting, LLC recommends the proposed project will likely have an Adverse Effect to the listed Historic District. The proposed walking trail that is to be installed on the southern portion of the island would also disrupt portions of the previously undocumented prehistoric site that was identified as a part of this Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment. In order to mitigate these effects, Blondo Consulting, LLC recommends a management plan be developed by Carver County. This plan must follow the recommendations of the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office and could include plans for site interpretation, updating the *National Register of Historic Places* listing, and a Phase II Evaluation of the island prior to any future work on the island. A Phase II Evaluation can help locate areas of activity, determine the types of activity that took place in those areas, and aid in refining what has been identified regarding the prehistoric cultural and temporal context of the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Carver County Parks retained Blondo Consulting, LLC (Blondo Consulting) to complete a Cultural Resource Assessment in preparation of the Proposed Lake Waconia Regional Park, Coney Island of the West, in Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota. The project is located in Township 116N, Range 25W, Sections 12 and 13 within a heavily wooded island setting. The proposed project will involve the cleanup and removal of vegetation and historic building remnants, the addition of camp and picnicking areas, and the installation of walking trails throughout the island.

The project is subject to review under Minnesota Statute 138: Field Archaeology and the Historic Sites Act. Section 138.665 Subdivision 2 of this act states, “The state, state departments, agencies, and political subdivisions, including the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, have a responsibility to protect the physical features and historic character of properties designated in section 138.662 and 138.664 or listed on the National Register of Historic Places created by Public Law 89-665. Before carrying out any undertaking that will affect designated or listed properties, or funding or licensing an undertaking by other parties, the state department or agency shall consult with the Minnesota Historical Society pursuant to the society’s established procedures to determine appropriate treatments and to seek ways to avoid and mitigate any adverse effects on designated or listed properties. If the state department or agency and the Minnesota Historical Society agree in writing on a suitable course of action, the project may proceed” (The Revisor of Statutes 2014). This requires a cultural resource survey be completed. This survey answers that request. Blondo Consulting completed this survey in consultation with Nienow Cultural Consultants, LLC (Nienow Cultural Consultants). Jeremy Nienow, PhD, RPA and Kelly Wolf, MA, RPA were the Principal Investigators for this project. They meet the Secretary of Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards. Steven J. Blondo, MA was the project manager.

One Area of Potential Effect (APE) was identified for the project. The APE for direct effect is limited to the area where the project will take place. This APE is limited to the area of potential disturbance. For this project, the APE consists of the entirety of Coney Island in Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota.

The cultural resource investigation involves a background literature search including a review of known archaeological sites and architectural properties, previously completed surveys, historic documents, accounts, maps, and photos, and a field visit. Previously recorded archaeological sites on the island as well as on the nearby shores of Lake Waconia were address during this search to assist in developing a site context to better understand the prehistory of the area. The results of the investigation and recommendations are included in this report.

2.0 PROJECT AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is located within Sections 12 and 13 of Township 116 North, Range 25 West, Carver County, Minnesota. Carver County has identified a number of potential safety

hazards and liabilities on Coney Island including abandoned building ruins, cisterns and well pits. The county has proposed a project plan that intends to remove the hazards and liabilities from the area, as well as convert the island into a park for public use that would utilize the island's history. Initially the proposed project will involve: vegetation clearing; stabilization and removal of historic building remnants; the installation of picnicking areas on the southwestern and southeastern ends of the island; a trail system circling the island. Other improvements may also be implemented in the future.

3.0 AREAS OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The APE for direct effect is defined as the area of potential ground disturbance. For this project that APE has been identified as the entirety of Coney Island in Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota. The project will involve the cleanup and removal of vegetation and historic building remnants, the addition of camp and picnicking areas, and the installation of walking trails throughout the island. The project is located in a heavily wooded island setting.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area lies within Minnesota SHPO Archaeological Region 2: Prairie Lake. Dr. Scott Anfinson (1990) first described these archaeological regions which help us to understand the prehistoric environment and better understand where archaeological sites may be located. Region 2: Prairie Lake is located in southwestern and southcentral Minnesota. Its topography consists of a patchwork of moraines, the Minnesota River trench, and lake basins (Anfinson 1990).

4.1 Soils

Within Region 2, soils range from medium to fine textured prairie soils in the central and western sections of the region, to fine and medium textured prairie border soils in the east (Anfinson 1990:148). Soils in the project area are described as part of both the Lester loam series on 6 to 10 percent slopes, and the Essexville sandy loam series on 0 to 2 percent slopes. The Lester loam series consists of well drained soils found on ground moraines, and hillslopes. The typical soil profile for this series consists of loam from 0 to 23 centimeters, clay loam from 23 to 76 centimeters, and loam from 76 to 200 centimeters. The Essexville sandy loam series consists of poorly drained soils found on beaches on lakes and moraines. The typical soil profile for this series consists of sandy loam from 0 to 38 centimeters, sand from 38 to 76 centimeters, and loam from 76 to 203 centimeters (NRCS 2014).

4.2 Environmental Landscape

Anfinson's Archaeological Region 2: Prairie Lake overlaps Minnesota's ecological region of the North Central Glaciated Plains. The majority of the North Central Glaciated Plains Section consists of level to rolling calcareous till deposited by the Des Moines lobe. This area is divided by the Minnesota River Valley. The patterns of historic vegetation growth have been heavily influenced by the frequency and severity of fires. Till plains, moraines, lake plains and outwash

plains cover the great majority of the region, with very little forestry. The moraines, lakebeds and prairie land also support small marshes, wetland prairie and wet meadows (DNR ECS).

4.3 Geological Background

H.E. Wright (1972) identifies the physiographic regions overlaying the state. Overlaying the project area is the Owatonna Moraine Area. This area extends west and south from Minneapolis down to the Iowa border. The linear shape of the Owatonna Moraine Area is defined by presence of north-south streams such as the Straight River. The eastern edge of the region terminates suddenly along the featureless area of the Rochester Till Plain, while the western edge gradually blends with the Blue Earth Till Plain. The region is defined by a rugged and forested northern portion, and a low relief in the southern portion. Prehistoric vegetation consisted mostly of prairie, but today the region consists of mainly farmland and forests (Wright 1972).

4.4 Prehistoric Flora and Fauna

The subsistence resources of the Early Prehistoric forests in the Prairie Lakes Region are not well known. They likely included non-extinct megafauna along with many of the plants and animals present in the northern and central Minnesota forests from Early Historic times. Bison would have been a primary resource during the Middle Prehistoric. They were also a strong resource during the Early Historic period as they had become somewhat dominant in the region, along with large elk herds. White tailed deer were also found in the Minnesota River Valley. The lakes promote various species of waterfowl, fish, and aquatic flora like water lilies and cattails. Wild rice was present, but not plentiful. Upland floral resources consisted of the prairie turnip, the ground plum, and acorns of the oak woods (Anfinson 1990).

5.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

At project commencement, historical background research and a literature search was completed at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), in the archives at the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), the Carver County Historical Society, as well as interviews with longtime Waconia residents. Previously recorded archaeological sites on the island as well as on the nearby shores of Lake Waconia were addressed during this search to assist in developing a site context to better understand the prehistory of the area. For a historic property (including archaeological sites) to be considered important within a cultural resource management context they must meet a level of significance and retain historic integrity for *National Register of Historic Places* listing. The National Historic Landmark Database was also consulted. No previously recorded cultural resources were identified in the National Historic Landmark Database. The background search concluded in the finding of one previously recorded archaeological site within the APE, and eight additional archaeological sites within a three-mile radius. Due to the nature of the project, the APE was the only area searched for historic structures. The island itself is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* as a Historic District.

5.1 Regional History

5.1.1 Carver County

Carver County contains portions of the Minnesota and Crow Rivers, as well as one hundred and twenty-five waterbodies. Before European settlement, this area served as hunting grounds and was home to Dakota Tribes. Some of the first Euro-Americans to set foot in what is now Carver County were French fur traders sometime during the 1600s. A number of these fur traders, such as Jonathan Carver from Massachusetts, the county's namesake, created bonds with the Dakota and formed trade agreements. From the 1600s to the 1840s increasing numbers of Europeans travelled here to trade. Two trading posts were established just for this purpose in what would eventually be Carver County: these posts represented the Northwest Fur Trading Company in 1779, and the American Fur Company in the early 1800s. Soon after the British and American companies took over the fur trade from the French, the business began to decline due to their poor inter-cultural relations. With the signing of the Treaty of Traverse de Sioux in 1851, and the Treaty of Mendota later that same year the fur trade period came to a close, and the area was legally opened up for Euro-American settlement (Bingham et al 1915).

Carver County was founded in 1855, named after Jonathan Carver, one of the earliest and most prominent people to travel and live in the area. The county is divided into ten townships. Five school districts were organized for these townships in 1857. Around that time the majority of Euro-American settlers in the county were German, Irish, and Swedish immigrants. These early settlers wished to farm the land, but found it difficult with the entirety of the area being heavily forested. In efforts to clear the forest for agriculture, the settlers instead realized the economic benefits of logging as opposed to agriculture, and began to lead a booming logging industry starting in the 1850s through the 1870s. Eventually, once enough of the land was cleared, regional industry turned from logging back to agriculture (Bingham et al 1915). Today Carver County has one of the quickest growing populations in the state of Minnesota, and is mainly home to commuters who work in the Twin Cities during the day, and travel back to the county at night (Carver County Historical Society 2016a).

Year	Minnesota	Carver County
1900	1,751,394	17,544
1910	2,075,708	17,455
1920	2,387,125	16,946
1930	2,563,953	16,936
1940	2,792,300	17,606
1950	2,982,483	18,155

Table I. County Populations		
Year	Minnesota	Carver County
1960	3,413,864	21,358
1970	3,804,971	28,331
1980	4,075,970	37,046
1990	4,375,099	47,915
2000	4,919,479	70,205
2010	5,303,925	91,042

5.1.2 Waconia

As with the rest of Carver County, the area that would be Waconia was first home to the Dakota. The Dakota called the lake just north of Waconia “Meday Wa Ko Ni Ya” meaning “lake of the fountain” or “lake of the spring.” Euro-American settlers adopted this as the name for the lake and town, later spelling it “Waconia” (Lahr 1964). The town of Waconia was surveyed and platted by a Minneapolis surveyor in 1857. Ludwig Sudheimer and Michael Scheidnagel built the first homes in the town, and were followed by large groups of German immigrants later that same year (Lahr 1964). Other immigrants to Waconia also included the Swiss, Swedish, and Bohemians, and by 1858 most of the shore around Lake Waconia (formerly known as Clearwater Lake) was settled (Carver County Historical Society 2016b).

Early Waconia industry was established between the 1860s and 1940s and included the Waconia Sorghum Mill, Waconia Steam Saw and Flowering Mill, and the Waconia Brewery, as well as a thriving ice harvesting industry, which lasted through the 1930s when refrigerators became popular. Due to its ever growing population, Waconia was incorporated as a village in 1880. A few years later the railroad came to town, and with it a booming tourist center developed. The island in the southern portion of Lake Waconia became known as Coney Island of the West, and was a popular tourist destination (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Due to this rise in popularity, Waconia’s population had grown enough by 1920 to be incorporated as a city, and the first sanitary sewer system was installed in 1924. Today Waconia is the third most populated city in Carver County, though its tourism industry dramatically declined after the resort on Coney Island of the West closed in the 1960s (Waconia Heritage Association 1986).

5.1.3 Coney Island of the West

Coney Island of the West is an island located in the southern portion of Lake Waconia, just north of the City of Waconia, approximately a half of a mile from the southern shore of the lake. There is very little known about habitation on the island prior to and during the early years of settlement around the lake, but by the late 1850s, tensions between Euro-American settlers and Native Americans began to grow culminating in multiple skirmishes and battles

across southern Minnesota over a six-week period known as the U.S. – Dakota War of 1862 (MNHS n.d.). In Waconia in 1862, Euro-American settlers sought refuge on the island during this war, fearing battles may come to Carver County (Lahr 1974). The U.S. – Dakota War was resolved before ever reaching Carver County, however widespread fear of the attack was prevalent. “For a few days, people took shelter or prepared to fight. Legend has it that a number of families took refuge on Coney Island, which offered a clear view of anyone coming to the island and would be difficult for the Indians to attack by surprise” (Waconia Heritage Association 1986:21). This was the first documented use of the island by Euro-Americans.

In 1866, 23.25 acres of the approximately 31.85 total acres on the island were purchased by the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad. At the time railroad companies were known to buy and develop properties near their railroads in an attempt to persuade people to utilize the trains to reach these destinations. The St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad never developed the island, and instead sold it to Josephine Hassenstab in 1874. Her father, Joseph Mueller, purchased the remaining 8.6 acres (the northern portion of the island) in 1876 (Lahr 1964).

Mueller and his sons-in-law, Francis (Josephine) Hassenstab, and Andrew Schultz, began plans for developing a resort on the island. The three did not make much progress, and instead profited by selling lots to individuals for private ownership. Lambert Naegele, editor of the *Freie Presse* of Minneapolis, purchased the great majority of the island in 1884 with similar dreams of resort development in mind (Lahr 1964). He named it Coney Island of the West, in a way of directly competing with Coney Island in New York. Immediately after its purchase, he paid for the island to be surveyed and platted. It was organized into 103 lots with a large area in the center that Naegele coined “Naegele’s Park.” Streets and avenues were platted as well, which Naegele named after German authors: Goethe, Uhland, Schiller and Lessing (Waconia Heritage Association 1986).

After the island was platted, Naegele set to work on developing a resort complex in Naegele’s Park. He began with the Coney Island Hotel and followed with a number of related buildings, including four cottages, a dining hall, a pavilion, and a bath house. The Dark family was hired in 1886 to be year-round residents of the island, charged with its care and upkeep. In 1886 Naegele built a second hotel building which became known as the boarding house, or dormitory, and the original hotel building was used primarily as a private residence for the Dark family as well as a space for hosting guests (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). As Naegele’s final buildings were being erected in 1886, the Lake City Nursey planted three hundred dollars worth of trees, and spread 500 loads of gravel on the streets and sidewalks (Waconia Heritage Association 1986).

Naegele also sold lots throughout the island to other private owners, which led to a handful of privately owned cabins, boathouses, and other related buildings scattered throughout the island. Peter Lindner bought property from Naegele on the southern portion of the island in 1884, also with the anticipation of catering to tourists (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). He built

his own cottage, and then proceeded to build and manage the Tivoli, an outdoor bar named after a famous resort in Copenhagen. The location of the Tivoli incited direct competition with Naegele's dancing pavilion. This competition likely led to the Tivoli only staying open for two seasons. Lindner continued to live on the island year-round, however. He died at his residence on the island in 1889. He was buried in the town of Young America. This cottage exchanged hands several times, and its foundation and ruins remain on the island today (Waconia Heritage Association 1986).

John Orth (of Orth Brewery fame) also bought property from Naegele on the north side of the island in 1884. He built a private cottage there, but passed away in 1887. His wife sold the property to Emile Amblard in 1893 (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Amblard is likely one of the island's most eccentric residents and developers, and left a legacy with his large estate and park grounds on the western portion of the island. He was a devoted French citizen, and served under Napoleon III in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian War. After escaping Prussia as a Prisoner of War dressed in the uniform of a Prussian soldier, he left the military and went into the wine business (Bingham 1915). It was during his time travelling for his wine business that he came across Coney Island after being invited there by a friend (Lahr 1964)

Amblard's estate on Coney Island was developed over many years, and included three villas, a boathouse, a bathhouse, several pavilions, and a gazebo. He also constructed a sea wall along the water's edge around his estate on the southwestern tip of the island (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Amblard considered himself a naturalist, and landscaped an extensive park and trail system throughout his estate designed for public use. He also introduced a number of exotic plant species to the island in the interest of beautification. Amblard passed away in 1914, and was buried in the cemetery on the peninsula on the south side of Lake Waconia facing the island, as per his request (Bingham 1915).

Little has been recorded regarding the fate of Amblard's property. James R. Ferris bought the island estate in 1914 after Amblard's death, and had plans to erect another hotel and more cottages on the property. He succeeded in constructing several cottages, but died before he could finish his work. The property exchanged hands a few times until it was bought by Walter Leistiko in 1944 who did some work to modernize and fix it up, but the property was sold again to Agnes Forrest only a few years later (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Forrest operated the property as the Golden Apple Restaurant for one year, and then it was sold yet again. Eventually Rose Totino, founder of the Totino's brand, purchased the property in 1971 (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Very little remains of the buildings and park that once defined the estate on the western portion of the island.

Naegele sold lots to several others in 1884, including Joseph Brueck, and Henry E. Latz who built their own private cottages on the southern portion of the island. Amblard sold two of his lots to Frank Hirschfield of Minneapolis (founder of Hirschfield's Paints, Wallcoverings, and Window Fashions) in 1907 (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Hirschfield built his own

cottage, which he named “Gartenlaub,” and two boathouses topped with gazebos flanking his shore entrance. Hirschfield also built two other buildings, one of which likely served as a storage shed, and the other as a stable. The property exchanged hands several times until it was purchased by Frank McCormick in 1915. The McCormick family held the property until 1945. Remnants of some of these buildings still remain (Waconia Heritage Association 1986).

In the late 1880s Naegele’s health turned poor, and he sold the majority of the island to Reinhold Zeglin in 1889. Zeglin maintained the island’s status as a tourist attraction, and began to shape the hotel complex in his own way. Zeglin added a laundry, bowling alley, a dining room that could seat one-hundred people, and orchestrated concerts on the island (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). During Zeglin’s time running the hotel, guests came from all over the world including Europe and South Africa. The main attraction to the island was its basic rustic feel, and the sense of closeness with nature that the isolated forest could provide. Rowboats could be rented from the hotel, or people were able to fish from the docks. Patrons also enjoyed the billiard room and a ballfield on the eastern tip of the island (Waconia Heritage Association 1986).

Beginning in 1907 Reinhold’s son, John Zeglin, began managing the hotel complex, along with Reinhold’s son-in-law, Albert H. LeDoux. In 1909 John Zeglin and his brother Grover Zeglin purchased the hotel from their father. Soon after in 1912 Grover was killed in a hunting accident on the peninsula of Lake Waconia (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). At only 26 years old, this left John Zeglin in sole charge of the complex. He maintained the majority of the complex as it was, and only added a tennis court during the first several years of his ownership. Business remained strong, and by 1920 it was called the “finest summer resort in Minnesota” by the *Patriot*, Waconia’s local newspaper (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). In the 1920s Zeglin managed to hook up a motor to draw lake water into a tank on a hill behind the kitchen as a way to bring running water to the island. It was then piped to the original hotel building (at this time called the “big house” or “main house”), the dormitory, the kitchen, and a few cottages. Zeglin also began installing indoor toilets on the island beginning in 1925 (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). During this time Zeglin was renting somewhere between fifteen and twenty cottages to tourists. In the mid-to-late 1920s, business began to wane. The two major factors include the post-World War I depression-era economy, and the rise of automobiles allowing tourists to travel further outstate and not rely on the train system. In 1927 Zeglin changed the name of the hotel complex to “Paradise Isle Resort” in an attempt to draw in more patrons. The name change had little to no effect, and the business continued to decline. In 1937 John Zeglin passed away at the age of fifty-five due to pneumonia. The rest of the family could not manage the hotel. The resort was left unused during the rest of the 1930s and in 1940 the property was purchased by Frank Dvorak (Waconia Heritage Association 1986).

Dvorak had a similar vision for the hotel complex to that of his predecessors. Dvorak added a dance hall and restaurant. His wife, Gertrude, was the chef, and her cooking became famed as

one of the main attractions to the resort (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Around 1945 Dvorak tore down the dormitory building that Naegele had built in 1886, and used the wood to construct and or update approximately twenty-one cabins around the island. The resort facilities were used for various events such as proms, banquets, dances and fundraisers. Boats, motors and fishing equipment were still available for rent. Dvorak’s resort saw a sharp decline in popularity in the 1950s, and in 1959 he sold it to Day Camp Company. The day camp never used the island, and instead let it fall into disrepair (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Due to negligent care, the deed was defaulted back to Dvorak in 1960. The restaurant and dancing pavilion continued to see business into the 1960s, but overall the resort business on Coney Island never regained its prestige. Dvorak closed the resort in the 1960s, and eventually lots on the island were exclusively privately owned. Consistent with regional, county, and local planning documents for park trails and open space, on January 27, 2015 Carver County entered into a Charitable Pledge and Donation Agreement with the Ann and Norman Hoffman Foundation for Coney Island. Carver County became the owner of the island on February 4, 2016. While people still sometimes picnic and fish off the island’s shores, today it serves no official use and has fallen into complete disrepair. Snowmobilers and vandals now comprise the majority of the island’s visitors (Waconia Heritage Association 1986).

5.2 Archaeology

During the background research conducted at the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) one previously recorded archaeological alpha site was identified within the APE (Table 2). Alpha sites include site files that “contain sites that either have not been confirmed by formal archaeological survey or have no official site form completed. Folders for these sites have information contained in survey reports, maps, historic documents, or correspondence” (Anfinson 2005:6). A field visit to the island took place October 10, 16 through 21, and November 1 through 4, 2016. The results of that visit are discussed in Section 8.0.

Site Number	Site Name	Cultural Affiliation	Description	NR Status
21CRad	-	Pre-Contact	Mounds	Unevaluated

Site 21CRad is an alpha site recorded based on a historical account of a visit by Sioux Chief Dave LaFrambois (Blue Eagle). LaFrambois’s visit to Waconia sparked “a surge of interest in Indian History in 1911 and 1912” (Waconia Heritage Association 1986:22). He initially travelled to Waconia from Shakopee on Thanksgiving Day in 1911 to visit his friend, Louis Lenz. He promised he would come back to help the residents identify mounds on Coney Island based on records that he had. The local newspaper, the *Patriot* describes this, “Dr. LaFrambois, as he is also known, informed us that according to records held by him he can locate two Indian

mounds on the North Shore of Clear Water Lake [Lake Waconia]. In one of the mounds are the remains of 150 Chippewa Indians while in the other are sixteen Sioux bodies... On or about... 1852, a battle was fought on these grounds between the Sioux and the Chippewa tribes which resulted in the death of... Chippewas and the killing of Chief Chaska. Dr. LaFrambois is coming to Waconia in a few weeks armed with the records left by his ancestors and will locate the mounds and have them officially recorded by the government. Mr. LaFrombois some time ago located a mound in the City of Chaska and is credited with finding many at Mound City” (Waconia Heritage Association 1986:22). As promised, he came back in 1912 for a visit that was heavily covered by the *Patriot* (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Accompanied by his wife and several Waconia residents, LaFrambois went to the island to locate the mounds mentioned in his records. He located a group of four mounds, and identified the remains he claimed were in them with details regarding their lives and deaths. He told the residents that joined him that the mounds included the remains of Wild Buffalo, whom he said was the first man to discover Lake Waconia and Waconia in 1820. He said the other burials contained the mother and grandmother of Chief Chaska, and approximately fifteen other individuals. “The grandmother, he claimed, died of wounds received in a battle on the North Shore, during which Sioux women occupied the island” (Waconia Heritage Association 1986:22).

Many details of the chief’s authority, stories, and records have come into question with time. In his initial visit to Waconia in 1911 he identified mounds on the northern shore of Lake Waconia, which do exist and have since been recorded as site 21CR51 (SHPO files). According to LaFrambois these mounds were a product of a war between the Chippewa and the Dakota in 1852, which is suspect and discrepancies are seen in the different versions of his story. “Many of the sites of supposed ‘battles’ were in reality village sites... supported by a map, published in *The Aborigines of Minnesota*, showing the sites of Ojibway battles. The map is dated 1852, but at least one battle in 1858 is given. No battle sites in Carver County [are] shown” (Waconia Heritage Association 1986:24). Furthermore, mounds were a burial technique used primarily during the Woodland Period (spanning from approximately 2,800 B.P. up to initial European Contact) (Anfinson 1990). LaFrambois’s actions regarding these mound groups are not known. It is possible LaFrambois found it necessary to prove the sacred status of the mounds on the north shore of Lake Waconia to his Euro-American audience, but then it calls into question why he did not do the same for the burial mounds he says he identified on Coney Island, “in which case, it is interesting that he did not also dig into the island ‘mounds,’ as their existence is more questionable” (Waconia Heritage Association 1986:24).

Several parties have attempted to identify and verify these mounds since LaFrambois first identified them. In 1975, Archaeologist Douglas George with the State of Minnesota visited Coney Island and concluded that no mounds could be observed at the time of his visit (SHPO files). During a Research and Planning Study conducted by Miller-Dunwiddie Architects, Inc. in 1979 attempts were made to identify the mounds, but they could not be located. They concluded that, “Although we have searched the known records of Indian mounds in Minnesota and inspected the site, we found no evidence of the mounds. They were of low profile and at

one time identified with signs” (Miller-Dunwiddie-Architects, INC. 1979:29). Former Minnesota State Archaeologist Scott Anfinson with Susan Roth (SHPO), Mark Dudzik (also a former Minnesota State Archaeologist), and Michael Koop (SHPO) also made a trip to attempt to locate the mounds on the island in the summer of 1998, but they could not be identified during this survey either (SHPO files).

An attempt was made to identify the mounds during the survey completed on October 10, 16 through 21, and November 1 through 4, 2016 for the purposes of this report. Principal Investigators Jeremy Nienow, PhD, RPA and Kelly Wolf, MA, RPA along with Project Manager Steven J. Blondo, MA searched for the mounds in the area they were originally reported to be, approximately 200 feet northeast of the old Coney Island Pavilion near the edge of the northern ridge. Mounds were not visually identified during the survey. More information regarding this survey can be found in section 7.1.

Additionally, previously recorded archaeological sites on the nearby shores of Lake Waconia were identified during the literature search to assist in developing a site context to better understand the prehistory of the area. Eight additional archaeological sites were identified during this search. The locations of these sites are illustrated in Attachment I: Maps.

Table 3. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 3 Miles				
Site Number	Site Name	Cultural Affiliation	Description	NR Status
21CRal	-	Pre-Contact	Habitation	Unevaluated
21CR10	-	Pre-Contact	Habitation	Unevaluated
21CR51	Woible Mounds	Pre-Contact	Mounds	Unevaluated
21CR52	-	Pre-Contact	Lithic Scatter	Unevaluated
21CR53	-	Pre-Contact	Habitation	Unevaluated
21CR100	-	Pre-Contact	Habitation	Unevaluated
21CR133	-	Pre-Contact: Early to Middle Woodland	Seasonal Camp	Unevaluated
21CR134	-	Pre-Contact	Lithic Scatter	Unevaluated

21CRa1

Located approximately one-and-a-quarter miles southeast of the proposed project area, site 21CRa1 is a prehistoric habitation on a ridge just east of Waconia overlooking Lake Waconia. No investigations of this site have been completed (SHPO Files).

21CR10

Located just under two-and-a-half miles northwest of the proposed project area, site 21CR10 is a prehistoric habitation identified through land owners Arlo and Brian Hasse who had been collecting artifacts from the surface within the areas of the habitation site. The area of the habitation site consists of two prominent rises in topography with steeply sloping perimeters. Arlo and Brian Hasse collected two chert bifaces and forty-four chert and quartz flakes and fragments (SHPO Files).

21CR51

Located just over two miles northeast of the proposed project area, The Woible Mounds are a group of four mounds along the eastern side of a pasture and wooded area. The group consists of three mounds that are approximately fifteen feet in diameter, and one that is approximately ten feet long and one foot wide. Three flakes observed on the surface during the Minnesota Historical Society Statewide Survey in 1977. These mounds had been badly looted at that time (SHPO Files).

21CR52

Located just under two miles northeast of the proposed project area, site 21CR52 is a scatter of three lithic materials and one sherd of historic crockery recovered from the ground surface. The lithic materials are a Hixton quartzite flake, a jaspelite flake, and a quartz fragment. The crockery was a sherd of common historic glazed red earthenware (SHPO Files).

21CR53

Located just under two miles northwest of the proposed project area, site 21CR53 is a prehistoric habitation on a rise just north of the lake. The site consists of a surface scatter of nineteen lithic materials including chert, Hixton quartzite and quartz flakes recovered from the owner's garden. One of the chert flakes is a utilized tool (SHPO Files).

21CR100

Located just under two miles northeast of the proposed project area, site 21CR100 is a prehistoric habitation on the west shore of Parley Lake. The site was identified during a Phase I survey conducted by Archaeological Field Services, Inc. in 1984. A number of artifacts were recovered during the survey, including St. Croix Stamped pottery (SHPO Files).

21CR133

Located approximately one-and-a-half miles southwest of the proposed project area, site 21CR133 is a seasonal camp on a small peninsula that extends into a wetland marsh draining

south into Reitz Lake. The site was identified through a Phase I and II survey completed by the 106 Group in 1999. A lithic scatter of Hixton quartzite and Cedar Valley Chert flakes and scatter, along with five diagnostic points were identified during the survey (SHPO Files).

21CR134

Located approximately one-and-a-half miles southwest of the proposed project area, site 21CR134 is a lithic scatter located on the edge of a wetland marsh that drains south into Reitz Lake. The site was identified through a Phase I and II survey completed by the 106 Group in 1999. During the survey three lithics were identified in total, including a biface fragment and two flakes of different, unidentified material (SHPO Files).

5.3 Architecture

Due to the nature of the proposed project, the search for historic architectural resources was limited to the APE. Coney Island in its entirety has been previously listed as a *National Register of Historic Places* Historic District (Table 4).

SHPO #	Site Name and Address	Site Description	NRHP Status
CR-WAT-001	Coney Island of the West, Waconia	Historic: Euro-American Resort and Cabin Remains	Listed

Coney Island was originally identified, evaluated, and nominated for the *National Register of Historic Places* as part of the Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey in 1975. The history of this Historic District can be found in Section 5.1.3. It was considered significant for its strong connection to the rise of the tourism and recreation industry west of the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, as well as being one of the most prominent tourist sites in the state of Minnesota. Business on the island was also integral to the development of Waconia as one of Carver County’s third largest cities.

An inventory and analysis of the Coney Island of the West Historic District (CR-WAT-001) was completed during this survey. The survey and its findings can be found in Section 7.2. Regardless of the island’s advanced state of vandalism and disrepair, Blondo Consulting maintains the conclusion that the island and its associated structural remains are still significant, and the Historic District’s listing in the *National Register of Historic Places* should remain.

5.4 Previously Completed Surveys

During the background research conducted at the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) one previously completed survey was identified within the APE and one additional previously completed survey was identified within the vicinity of the proposed project area (Table 5).

Table 5: Previous Archaeological Surveys within 1 Mile of Project Area			
SHPO #	Date	Author(s)	Title
N/A	1979	Miller-Dunwiddie Architects, Inc.	Research and Planning Study of Coney Island of the West, Waconia Lake, Carver County, Minnesota
N/A	2012	Ann Merriman, Christopher Olson	Lake Waconia Survey Report

Research and Planning Study of Coney Island of the West

Miller-Dunwiddie-Architects, Inc. (MDA) was commissioned by the City of Waconia to conduct a research and planning study on Coney Island with the intent of proposing a plan for the historic preservation of the island in the 1970s. The study included a detailed survey and evaluation of the remaining buildings and building remains on the island that included utilizing historical and architectural research. The research included studying available newspaper accounts, deed records, reports, photographs, and documents available at the Minnesota Historical Society and the Carver County Historical Society. The ensuing architectural survey included an overview of the island and its remaining buildings. During the survey identified buildings were measured, and determinations were made using the research and field data to determine the original construction, ownership, and later modifications to each building. The condition of each building was also evaluated (Miller-Dunwiddie Architects, Inc. 1979).

As a result of the historic research and architectural survey, along with a number of other considerations, MDA recommended that Coney Island be developed as a recreational facility related to the Regional Park that had been proposed on the southeast shore of Lake Waconia at the time. After that survey it was determined that the surviving buildings were still in reasonable enough condition to restore as part of the facility. They recommended preservation of the Playing Field, and removal of any other buildings that had been more recently added, or buildings that were in poor condition. The goal was to restore the island to its 1884 to 1900 appearance, while adding some modern conveniences for the sake of the recreational facility. Year-round occupation was also recommended to decrease vandalism. Due to a number of factors, no action was taken to begin restoration or development on Coney Island as a result of this survey (Miller-Dunwiddie Architects, Inc. 1979).

Lake Waconia Survey Report

In August of 2012 Maritime Heritage Minnesota conducted a “side and down-imaging sonar survey of Lake Waconia” as the first search for submerged archaeological sites in the lake (Merriman et al 2012:2). The survey included boating across the lake in parallel transects spaced approximately 500 feet apart. A sonar transducer was utilized on the boat sending acoustical

waves 250-feet out on either side of the boat horizontal with the water's surface, as well as downward into the water. One hundred-four anomalies were noted during the survey. Forty-six of these anomalies appeared to be man-made cultural materials. Based on their sonar signatures, ten of these were considered by the researchers to be 'probable wrecks,' twenty-two other anomalies were considered possible wrecks, and fourteen were possible man-made objects. Maritime Heritage Minnesota recommended utilizing SCUBA volunteers to further investigate the anomalies, and determine their nature and origin (Merriman et al 2012).

6.0 CULTURAL HISTORY

Statewide contexts have been developed by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which examines Minnesota's recent Prehistoric through Historic past. These contexts are based on archaeological and historic research. They describe the history of the state, and assist in predicting where specific types of sites may occur both geographically and temporally. Contexts allow us to identify property types and understand how to evaluate historic resources.

American Indian contexts are commonly divided into three major traditions: Paleoindian, Archaic, and Woodland based on significant changes in how these communities lived and in what they ate. Historic contexts are generally divided into Contact and Post-Contact periods. The Contact period begins with early European exploration of the state and continues through the Post-Contact period including settlement and statehood.

6.1 Pre-Contact Period

6.1.1 Paleoindian Tradition (12,000 to 8,000 Before Present [B.P.]

The Paleoindian Tradition begins at the close of the Pleistocene era and beginning of the Holocene era. American Indian Communities are small, mobile, and focused on hunting. During this period, the glacial ice retreats, Lake Agassiz (located on the edge of Traverse County, Minnesota) drains, and prairie vegetation advances into western Minnesota. Archaeological evidence from Paleoindian sites in Minnesota includes the Browns Valley Site, 21TR0005. They reflect the same general characteristics and patterns noted for Paleoindian sites throughout the central United States and Canada. Based on the small number of artifacts recovered from these sites, it can be assumed that these communities hunted a limited number of large animals, mainly mammoth and mastodons. As the Pleistocene era ended and the Holocene era began, these mega fauna gradually died out. Ancient species of bison followed the advance of prairie vegetation, giving Paleoindian peoples a new species to hunt. In addition to hunting large and small game, it is likely that gathering wild plant foods supplemented the diet of Paleoindian peoples.

Paleoindian peoples are known for their distinctive stone tools. Projectile points of this period show advanced craftsmanship and include large lanceolate projectile points. Because Paleoindian

communities were small and nomadic, archaeologists have found only sparse, scattered evidence of Paleoindian peoples throughout the region.

6.1.2 Archaic Tradition (8,000 to 2,800 B.P.)

The beginning of the Archaic period is marked by a shift in diet and settlement patterns that represent an adaptation to environmental changes. Archaic peoples begin to use more diverse plant and animal resources. A broader range of tools including new projectile point forms, copper tools, and ground and pecked stone tools appear. Archaeological research does not present a clear picture of community size during this time. Research suggests both that community size increased and remained small with day-to-day activities taking place at a series of seasonal camps (Anfinson 1987;1997). Bison hunting remained an integral part of life for Archaic peoples. As with known Paleoindian sites, Archaic sites are relatively small and sparse.

6.1.3 Woodland Tradition (2,800 B.P. to European Contact)

In the Midwest region, archaeologists tend to divide the Woodland Tradition into three periods: Early, Middle, and Late. However Anfinson (1987) suggests that in Minnesota it is more appropriate to divide the era into Initial and Terminal Woodland periods. Manufacturing ceramic vessels, utilizing bows and arrows, building burial mounds, and cultivating specific plant species, all mark the transition from the Archaic to the Woodland Tradition. Overall, subsistence during the Woodland Tradition remained similar to that of the Archaic period with communities dependent upon a diverse, seasonal resource base of plants and animals (Johnson 1988; Anfinson 1987).

Although community sizes have many similarities between the Early Woodland and Late Archaic period, by the Late Woodland period, populations are on the rise. This may be due to increased efficiency in food acquisition. Woodland period sites include burial mounds, small, limited-use sites, and large village and habitation sites. Sites are located either in areas where a community could focus on a specific resource or in environments capable of sustaining larger communities over longer periods of time.

6.1.4 Plains Village & Mississippian/Oneota Traditions (1,100 B.P. to European Contact)

Terminal Woodland period sites in Minnesota exhibit significant changes in subsistence and settlement patterns. Ceramic vessels with different form and decoration, settlement patterns shifting to larger and more permanent villages (usually near river settings) mark the change archaeologists refer to as the Plains Village and Mississippian/Oneota Traditions. Archaeological evidence indicates that both the Plains Village and Mississippian complexes relied heavily on bison hunting and intensive corn horticulture.

Archaeologists are unsure how the Oneota complexes developed. There are two common theories. The first suggests that groups migrating into the Upper Midwest brought with them new cultural traditions. The second theory proposes that people already living in the area began to adopt cultural changes different from groups around them.

Plains Village and Oneota site types are similar to those associated with the Woodland Tradition. The archaeological remains of these complexes range from burial mounds to small, limited-use sites and extensive habitation sites. Site location remains consistent with the Woodland Period.

6.2 Contact/Post-Contact Period (1630 to Present)

This period generally refers to the span of time extending from the first European explorations until intensive Euro-American settlement of the region. Minnesota's historical period began in 1673 when French explorers Marquette and Joliet discovered the upper portion of the Mississippi River. Ten years later, Catholic Missionary Father Louis Hennepin told his story of exploring Minnesota and being held captive by the Dakota Indians in the first book written about Minnesota, *Description de la Louisiane*.

The territory containing modern-day Minnesota was claimed by Spain, France, Great Britain, and the United States. Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike led the first United States expedition through Minnesota in 1805. Fort St. Anthony (later Ft. Snelling) was completed between 1819 and 1824, and in 1836 the Wisconsin Territory including a portion of Minnesota, was formed. Minnesota became a territory in 1849 and achieved statehood on May 11, 1858.

The fur trade drove much of the European exploration and settlement in Minnesota through the mid-1800s. While the fur trade impacted the American Indian communities throughout all of Minnesota, the heaviest impacts came with European settlement after the 1860s. At that time, intensive settlement and agriculture dramatically transformed the landscape, displacing a large number of American Indians. In 1862 tensions between white settlers and American Indians resulted in the Dakota Conflict. Ultimately, this war left 462 whites and "an unknown but substantial number" of Dakota dead (Anderson and Woolworth 1988). This conflict concluded with the hanging of 38 Dakota in Mankato and the deportation of many others to Santee, Nebraska.

As white settlers made Minnesota their home, farming became the predominant industry. Wheat was the cash crop, and mills sprang up along major waterways across the state, notably in Minneapolis. Minnesota dominated the world in wheat processing until the 1930s.

In addition to milling, Minnesota was also a leader in lumbering and iron mining. Lumbering played a significant role in the development of northern Minnesota, with the industry peaking between 1899 and 1905. Iron mining began affecting the state's economy in 1884, when the Soudan Mine began shipping ore. The development of the Soudan Mine opened the Vermilion Iron Range, one of Minnesota's three iron ranges. Over the next two decades, mines sprang up across northern and central portions of the state. The Mesabi, Cuyuna, and Vermilion Iron Ranges employed thousands of people and brought millions of dollars into Minnesota's economy. Minnesota's iron industry spurred the rapid growth of mining cities such as Evelyth,

Chisholm, Virginia, and Hibbing, as well as the port cities of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin” (Minnesota State University-Mankato 2007).

American Indian archaeological site types associated with this period are generally consistent with those of earlier periods, but European and Euro-American traders, missionaries, settlers, and industries affect the locations of these sites. This period also includes Euro-American immigrant settlement patterns, subsistence activities, and economic strategies. Sites associated with Euro-American immigrants appear in the mid-nineteenth century. Associated archaeological and historic site types categorized in the Contact/Post-Contact period include standing structures as well as archaeological sites.

7.0 SURVEY METHODS AND RESULTS

On October 10, 16 through 21, and November 1 through 4, 2016 Blondo Consulting in consultation with Nienow Cultural Consultants, conducted a Cultural Resources Survey of Lake Waconia Regional Park, Coney Island of the West, in Waconia, Minnesota. Jeremy Nienow, PhD, RPA and Kelly Wolf, MA, RPA were Principal Investigators with Project Manager Steven J. Blondo, MA, and Field Technicians Laura Koski, Melissa Mickelson, Ben Schweer, Alison Hruby, MA and Stefanie Kowalczyk, MA. This island consists of approximately 36 acres of forested land. Field survey techniques were based on the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) *Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota* and *Guidelines for History/Architecture Projects in Minnesota*. Photographs were taken during the field visit.

7.1 Archaeological Survey

The Phase I Archaeological Survey consisted of pedestrian survey and shovel testing on a 15-meter interval. Ground visibility was zero percent in most areas due to heavy vegetation and deadfall. Several prehistoric artifacts were identified on the beach on the southern edge of the eastern portion of the island. Shovel tests were laid out at 15-meter intervals across the entirety of Coney Island. Some shovel tests were not excavated due to areas consisting of steep slopes, wetland, architectural remains, or areas too thickly vegetated to excavate. A total of 305 shovel tests were excavated across the island.

The island consists of major topographic features that can be split into two segments. The center of the island consists of a high, bluff-like rise, while the base of the island consists of low flood plains and beaches. The typical soils found throughout the majority of the high rise on the island consisted of loamy clay that transitioned into thick clay. Most shovel tests on this rise were terminated between 50 and 70 centimeters, or at least 10 centimeters past the beginnings of subsoils. Soils on the southwestern tip and eastern end on the low rises of the island, as well as on the vegetated beach areas that wrap around the western and northern edges of the island, were mostly consistent with each other. Shovel tests in these areas typically consisted of a sandy loam or sandy clay loam that transitioned into sand approximately 20 centimeters below the surface. Most of these shovel test pits were terminated between 80 and 100 centimeters, or when water began to seep into the shovel test pit indicating the beginning of

the water table. Attachment I: Soil Profiles shows individual shovel test results and soil profiles. Historic debris was commonly identified throughout the entire island. Only limited numbers of identifiable historic artifacts were collected during shovel testing.

Of the 305 shovel test completed, 36 contained prehistoric cultural materials. On average these materials were recovered from the test pits less than 50 centimeters below ground surface. The artifact assemblage collected during the survey consisted of a mixture of lithic material, prehistoric ceramics, historic materials, and faunal remains. The majority of recovered lithic material consists of flakes and shatter left behind from the production of stone tools. One stone projectile point was recovered during the survey. Elements of the stem and shoulders were broken off, likely due to hafting activities. The absence of these elements makes the point difficult to assign to a particular tool typology, but the overall point style dates to the early Late Woodland Period (Morrow 2015, and personal communication with Dan Wendt 2016). The prehistoric ceramics recovered during the survey also reflect a Middle to Late Woodland occupation. The majority of the ceramics are cord roughened and grit tempered. Only a few of the ceramics recovered were left untreated, and one ceramic sherd was untreated and shell tempered. Minnesota lithic specialist Dan Wendt was consulted regarding the raw materials that may have been used to produce the lithics found on Coney Island and to gain a better understanding of the time period represented by the prehistoric artifacts that were collected.

One prehistoric grit tempered ceramic rim was recovered. The features of the rim sherd indicate that it came from a large, likely globular vessel. The rim and shoulder feature diagonally trailed lines as well. The presence of cord roughened and grit tempered ceramics, as well as the grit tempered rim of a likely large and globular vessel all indicate a Middle Woodland context (approximately 1,700 to 1,500 years ago, AD 300 to AD 500). The projectile point and single shell tempered sherd stretches the context into the Late Woodland Period as well, approximately 400 to 500 years ago, AD 1500 to AD 1600 (Gibbon 2012). The rim sherd presents an unusual combination of features that indicate a possible combination of Late Woodland and Mississippian (1,100 B.P. to European Contact) characteristics. The grit temper is indicative of Late Woodland practices, while the trailed lines and general shape of the rim, and implied shape of the vessel, point to a Mississippian influence. This, along with the shell tempered ceramic, may be evidence of Late Woodland culture merging with Mississippian culture (Personal communication with Dan Wendt 2016). Due to the overwhelming amount of Middle Woodland grit tempered and cord roughened ceramic materials recovered compared to the potentially Mississippian influenced ceramics, a Phase II Evaluation would be useful in determining these possible cultural relationships or transitions.

Sixty-two lithics were recovered during the Phase I survey. Prairie du Chien chert comprised forty percent of the lithics identified on the island, the largest percentage for a single raw material, followed by Swan River Chert at fifteen percent, and Burlington Chert at eight percent. The remaining seventeen percent is a mixture of other materials. According to Wendt the varieties of Prairie du Chien recovered during this survey can be found along the Minnesota

River. The Swan River Chert can also be found locally near Lake Waconia's shores. A Phase II Evaluation would be useful for gaining greater context for what kinds raw materials can be identified on the island beyond what can be recovered during shovel testing. The current assemblage indicates that the majority of the materials used for stone tool production were locally sourced (Personal communication with Dan Wendt 2016).

Only diagnostic historic materials were collected during the survey. The materials collected include bottle base sherds with maker's marks, ammunition shells, and even elements of a kerosene lamp. Materials that were not collected include brick fragments, bottle and window glass sherds, and various fragments of scrap and sheet metal. All historic materials identified during the survey reflect an occupation from the 1880s through the mid-1900s. Burnt and sawn cut mammal bone was also identified, indicating refuse from historic cooking activities. Faunal remains recovered include a mixture of mammal, bird, fish bone, and shell. Faunal materials were also identified scattered on the surface of the island, as well as within shovel test pits. Some of these remains may be attributed to the island's attractiveness as a seasonal habitat for birds. Cormorants have been described as having infested the island within the last few years. Their population grew so high they began to negatively impact the island's environment, and affect the fish population of Lake Waconia. In an attempt to preserve the island and lake ecology, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued permits, which were approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Norman Hoffman, owner of Coney Island, had claimed that dung from the birds is killing trees, and has received permits since 2008 to have the birds killed legally. The permits require that federal sharpshooters do the work, because they're trained in how to minimize disturbance to protected egrets and herons that often share the same trees with cormorants. Sharpshooters killed 187 cormorants on Coney Island in 2008, 368 in 2009, 600 in 2010, and 309 in 2011, according to records. Hoffman paid for the work and carcass disposal, which cost nearly \$3,500 in 2011" (Meersman 2012). Intact bird skeletons were found on the surface throughout the island during this survey. Many are likely there as a result of the extermination event, while others may be due to natural causes.

7.2 Architectural Survey

Coney Island of the West was listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* as a Historic District in 1975 during the Statewide Historic Sites Survey. At this time the property was deemed significant for Commerce and Recreation as one of "Minnesota's most popular early resort areas, a representation of the desire of urban dwellers to seek recreation in Minnesota's lakes and nature areas as early as the 1880s" (Nelson 1975:3). At this time the recreational use of the island was seen as in decline by the 1920s, however the island was used as a hotel and occupied by private residents during the summers well into the 1960s. In 1975 it was observed that, "Forty structures... remain today although in a severe state of deterioration. Of the well-manicured parks, paths, and grounds all but infrequent remnants have been engulfed under dense and uncontrolled undergrowth" (Nelson 1975:1). The structures still standing in 1975 were of frame construction, mainly set on concrete or post foundations. Thirteen major structures were the focus of the survey and included, "the Island Hotel, Pavilion, Dining Hall,

Boarding House, Emile Amblard's three villas (Villa Emile, Villa Marie, and Villa Topsy), and six large cottages" (Nelson 1975:1). Minor structures were also referred to, which were associated with the Hotel and consisted of small one or two room cabins, as well as the remnants of boathouses, bathhouses, a barn, baggage house, laundry, and storage, noted to be in "advanced states of decay" (Nelson 1975:1).

In 1979, Miller-Dunwiddie Architects, Inc. completed a formal survey of the island to make recommendations for a master plan for the preservation of Coney Island, which was submitted to the City of Waconia. During this survey, they observed, "a large number of buildings of assorted sizes and descriptions are located on the Island. A total of 42 buildings and structures were surveyed. These include the Coney Island Hotel complex, the Amblard Estate and several private residences and cottages. A number of buildings date from the 1880s and are considered of historical and architectural significance. Others are of more recent vintage. All of the structures are in disrepair and severely vandalized. Many are in advanced stages of deterioration" (Miller-Dunwiddie Architects, Inc 1979:4). They observed that the architecture on the island was mainly of utilitarian design typical of summer lake cabins. The exceptions to this were the Coney Island Hotel, Pavilion, two associated cottages within the Hotel complex, the Peter Lindner residence, Amblard's Villa Emile, and the Breuck-Bryant summer cabin, with the most significant being the Coney Island Hotel representing Stick Style architecture. The 1979 survey concludes in a similar manner as the 1975 survey. Miller Dunwiddie Architects, Inc. believed that, although all of the buildings had been subjected to sever vandalism, many of them remained structurally sound and retained their original integrity.

Today, there is little left of the original buildings seen in the 1970s. After the 1979 recommendations for the preservation of Coney Island, nothing was completed and the island was allowed to further deteriorate. During the current survey, completed by Blondo Consulting in consultation with Nienow Cultural Consultants, a systematic survey of the island was completed. Maps created during the 1979 survey were used to identify the remnants of buildings previously recorded. Notes and measurements were taken as well as photographs of each building. All but one building on the island has collapsed or been demolished with only a foundation, utility pipes, or architectural debris left to identify its location. Due to the overall poor condition, the remaining remnants will be classified as ruins. See Table 6 for brief descriptions of each building, or cluster of buildings, along with an approximate date of construction and associated owner(s) based on the 1975 and 1979 reviews. Attachment 1: Maps, Map 6 gives the locations of each building.

Table 6: Architectural Evaluation of Coney Island

Field Designation	Approximate Date Constructed	Owner(s)	Description
A1	1907	Frank Hirschfield; H.C. Wagner (1910)	Originally a Private Residence/Cottage; Only still standing building, measuring approximately 47 feet by 36.5 feet, multi-gabled roof with asphalt shingles, asbestos tile on the exterior, a full front porch faces the lake; heavily vandalized and in poor condition
A2	1907	Frank Hirschfield; H.C. Wagner (1910)	Originally a privy and storage building; approximately 15 feet by 16 feet, clapboard wood siding and asphalt shingles sitting on a concrete block foundation; roof has caved in and some walls have collapsed
A3	1907	Frank Hirschfield; H.C. Wagner (1910)	Originally a stable; approximately 8 feet by 11 feet, clapboard wood siding and asphalt shingles, the building is partially caved in, A covered well is located approximately 17 feet from the southeast corner
B1		John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	B1 through B4 are a row of cabins connected by a concrete sidewalk; B1 is the westernmost cabin, but is no longer visible aside from some architectural debris and utilities
B2		John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	B1 through B4 are a row of cabins connected by a concrete sidewalk; B2 is approximately 14 feet by 22 feet, clapboard wood siding, one story gabled roof and utilities on the NE corner, evidence of burning is on the outside of the east facade, building is partially collapsed
B3		John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	B1 through B4 are a row of cabins connected by a concrete sidewalk; B3 is approximately 15 feet by 20 feet has a gabled roof, bead board interior wall covering, clapboard exterior walls with asbestos tile covering, building is partially collapsed
B4		John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	B1 through B4 are a row of cabins connected by a concrete sidewalk; B4 is approximately 12.5 feet by 19 feet with clapboard exterior siding, bead board and fiberboard interior wall covering, gable roof, a porch extends 8 feet out from the south facing facade, building is partially collapsed
C	1884	Peter Lindner	Originally a Private Residence/Cottage; currently consists of a Chaska brick and concrete foundation about 23 feet by 16.5 feet, porch footings are approximately 10.5 feet away from the foundation on three sides, all walls and roof have collapsed

Table 6: Architectural Evaluation of Coney Island

Field Designation	Approximate Date Constructed	Owner(s)	Description
D1		Joseph Breuck (1887); Joseph Buendorf (1889); Dr. Henry Bryant (1906); Therse Mayo (1945)	eastern-most building measures approximately 18 feet by 13 feet, concrete block foundation, asphalt shingles, mostly collapsed
D2	1887	Dr. Henry E. Latz	D2 is approximately 15 feet east of D1, measures approximately 23 feet by 30 feet, no structural elements remain except a partial stone and concrete foundation; approximately 17 feet south is a staircase that leads down to D3, approximately 25 feet north is a square concrete pit 5.5 feet by 5.5 feet
D3	1887	Dr. Henry E. Latz	D3 is a boat house directly south of D1, made of rock and concrete with clapboard upper walls, steps from D2 lead to rock and concrete terracing connected to upper level of boathouse
E	1928	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Guest Cottage; no discernable structure remains aside from foundational remains and architectural debris; Possibly 2 cabins in this area, utilities and structural debris in one area, a concrete sidewalk runs roughly north-south towards stone and concrete foundation 12 feet by 9 feet 4 inches
F1	1910	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Guest Cottage; western most structure, single story, single gabled roof with asphalt shingles, approximately 20.2 feet by 17 feet, small entryway off the western facade extends approximately 4 feet out from the building and is 5 feet wide, wooden clapboard siding, utilities off the northern facade, concrete foundation, partially collapsed
F2	1910	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Guest Cottage; approximately 39 feet east of F1, same shape and orientation as F1 with utilities located on eastern facade, approximately 16 feet by 24 feet 9 inches, partially collapsed
G1	1884	Lambert Naegele or John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Originally the Pavilion; wood siding, concrete foundation, approximately 39 feet by 31 feet, partially collapsed
G2		Lambert Naegele or John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Possibly a kitchen, single gabled roof with asphalt shingles, bead board interior wall covering, a stove, refrigerator and water heater present, approximately 50 feet by 21 feet with a concrete foundation visible at 36 feet along the longest facade, building is mostly collapsed

Table 6: Architectural Evaluation of Coney Island

Field Designation	Approximate Date Constructed	Owner(s)	Description
H1	1930	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Guest Cottage; H1 through H3 are a row of cottages similar in appearance, H1 is the eastern most building in an “L” shape approximately 12 feet by 10 feet 8 inches, a small 4 foot extension is on the north facade possibly for a bathroom, 1 story with bead board exterior siding, fiberboard or sheetrock on interior, building is partially collapsed
H2	1930	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Guest Cottage: H1 through H3 are a row of cottages similar in appearance, H2 is the central building, but mainly nonexistent, some architectural debris and utilities present
H3	1930	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Guest Cottage: H1 through H3 are a row of cottages similar in appearance, H3 is the western most building approximately 11 feet by 12 feet 3 inches with a similar 4 foot extension as H1 from the north facade, build of the same material as the other cabins, the three cabins measure approximately 64 feet across from east to west
I		Lambert Naegele or John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Originally 2 Hotel Service Buildings; currently only a portion of the eastern most building remains, foundation is concrete and stone, portions of a single gable roof remains, a few appliances and utilities present
J1	1886	Lambert Naegele or John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Coney Island Hotel; foundation present made of rock and concrete, many appliances including water heaters, large sink, stove, refrigerator, utilities present, northern facade is approximately 30 feet wide, southern facade is approximately 17 feet wide, approximately 65 feet 6 inches long
J2	1920	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Well/Pump House; approximately 17 feet east of J1, approximately 10.3 feet by 7.5 feet, one window and door in south facade, utilities present, building partially collapsed
K			Possibly a cabin; concrete foundation approximately 20 feet by 14.5 feet, utilities present, single gable visible with asphalt shingles, building is partially collapsed; two small depressions approximately 15 feet northwest of K, approximately 4 feet square; additional depression approximately 27 feet east of K, approximately 20 feet by 14 feet 5 inches

Table 6: Architectural Evaluation of Coney Island

Field Designation	Approximate Date Constructed	Owner(s)	Description
L	1887	John Orth	Originally Private Residence/Cottage; large depression with poured concrete foundation and large brick chimney approximately 35 feet by 19 feet, no other structural elements remain, directly north is a boat house (M)
M	1887	John Orth	Boat House; poured concrete foundation and concrete roof, partially collapsed, approximately 18 feet by 40 feet, associated with L
N	1907	Frank Hirschfield; H.C. Wagner (1910)	Boat House; approximately 14 feet by 22.5 feet, concrete block foundation built into the hill, clapboard front (south) and side walls, poured concrete roof and floor
O	1930	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Originally 3 Cottages; all 3 buildings have collapsed and there are no discernable building shapes, approximately 30 feet east-west and 23.5 feet north-south, some architectural remains include bead board interior, clapboard exterior, asbestos exterior siding, asphalt shingles, concrete footings present on north side
P	1900	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Cottage; no discernable building, some architectural debris including utilities, concrete debris, a metal bed frame
Q	1886	Lambert Naegele; John and Reinhold Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Boarding House; no discernable building, depression with rock foundation approximately 29 feet by 22 feet, other debris visible in the area
R1		Emile Amblard; James R. Ferris; Totino Family	Possibly Villa Marie or Villa Topsy; poured concrete foundation built into the hill facing lake, approximately 17 feet by 19 feet
R2		Emile Amblard; James R. Ferris; Totino Family	Possibly Villa Marie or Villa Topsy; concrete block foundation built into the hill approximately 15 feet by 20 feet, concrete and rock foundation extends out from hill approximately 14.5 feet, chimney present, but fallen in, approximately 58.5 feet west of R1
R3			Chaska brick and concrete block foundation approximately 58.5 feet west of R2, built into the hill, only partial foundation remains, approximately 12 feet 9 inches by 14.5 feet
R4		Emile Amblard; James R. Ferris; Totino Family	Originally a Service Building; poured concrete pad with step approximately 24 feet 5 inches by 12 feet 1 inch, no other structural remains present

Table 6: Architectural Evaluation of Coney Island			
Field Designation	Approximate Date Constructed	Owner(s)	Description
R5		Emile Amblard; James R. Ferris; Totino Family	Originally Villa Emile and sea wall; no architectural features present aside from poured concrete and rock retaining walls with some concrete block foundation and a possible cellar pit, sea wall runs along the entire southwest corner of the island
R6		Emile Amblard; James R. Ferris; Totino Family	Originally 2 Cottages and a Gazebo; southern most foundation is a concrete block foundation approximately 22 feet 2 inches by 14 feet 2 inches; approximately 48 feet 4 inches from two central concrete anchors (possible remains of gazebo), northern most foundation is approximately 10 feet 3 inches by 14 feet by 5 inches and 23 feet 10 inches from concrete anchors
S	1930	John Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Originally 3 Cabins; very little remains of the individual buildings, clapboard siding, red asphalt shingles, fiberboard interior walls, and concrete foundations present, approximately 61 feet from east to west and 24 feet north to south
T			no buildings present, beach area with man-made berms surrounding shoreline
U1	1886	Lambert Naegele; John and Reinhold Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Originally Large Cottage; northern most building approximately 23 feet by 33 feet, wooden clapboard siding, concrete block foundation, the eastern facade (lake facing) includes a porch and a concrete sidewalk present to the north/northwest of cabin, partially collapsed
U2	1886	Lambert Naegele; John and Reinhold Zeglin; Frank Dvorak (1943)	Originally Large Cottage; southern most cabin, mostly collapsed, clapboard siding, asbestos tile on exterior, with metal flashing and asphalt roof shingles

8.0 CONCLUSION

Blondo Consulting was retained by Carver County Parks to complete a Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Lake Waconia Regional Park, Coney Island of the West, in Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota. The project is located in Township 116N, Range 25W, Sections 12 and 13. The proposed project will involve the cleanup and removal of vegetation and historic building remnants, the addition of camp and picnicking areas, and the installation of walking trails throughout the island. The APE is defined as the entirety of Coney Island. A literature search was completed to put together a history of the area and to identify previously recorded archaeological sites on the island as well as on the nearby shores of Lake Waconia. This assisted in developing a site context to better understand the prehistory of the area. One

archaeological alpha site, 21CRad, was identified within the APE, and eight additional archaeological sites were identified within the vicinity of the proposed project area. One *National Register of Historic Places* listed Historic District was identified as the entirety of Coney Island.

Blondo Consulting completed a cultural resources survey across the island in consultation with Nienow Cultural Consultants on October 10, 16 through 21, and November 1 through 4, 2016. Both archaeological and architectural elements on the island were addressed during this systematic survey. During this survey a previously undocumented prehistoric component was identified across the island and will be recorded at the Office of the State Archaeologist. The remnants of the currently listed *National Register of Historic Places* Historic District were also addressed. Blondo Consulting recommends additional archaeological investigation on the island to determine the extent of the prehistoric component and its eligibility for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Additional archaeological work would include a Phase II Evaluation with the placement of one-meter by one-meter test units. A Phase II Evaluation can help locate areas of activity, determine the types of activity that took place in those areas, and aid in refining what has been identified regarding the cultural and temporal context of the site. It is also recommended that the currently listed *National Register* Historic District be updated to reflect the current condition of the architectural elements that contribute to the District. Blondo Consulting recommends the existing *National Register* listed Historic District maintains significance under Criterion A for its contribution to the history of commerce and recreation in Waconia and Minnesota. Blondo Consulting also recommends that Coney Island be considered eligible under Criterion D for the potential to yield additional information to history and prehistory and that the remaining architectural features present on the island be considered contributing historical ruins.

Currently, the proposed project includes the removal of building remains as part of creating a safe park space for the public to enjoy. This is likely to cause an Adverse Effect to the existing *National Register of Historic Places* listed Historic District. The proposed walking trail that is to be installed on the southern portion of the island would also disrupt portions of the previously undocumented prehistoric site that was identified as a part of this Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment. In order to mitigate these effects, Blondo Consulting recommends a management plan be developed by Carver County prior to any work on the island. This plan must follow the recommendations of the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office and could include plans for site interpretation, updating the *National Register of Historic Places* listing, and a Phase II Evaluation of the island prior to future work on the island.

Minnesota Statute 307.08 dictates, should buried artifacts, human remains, cultural sites, or ground features be unexpectedly unearthed during ground disturbing activities, all construction should immediately cease, and the resources be examined by a professional archaeologist. Additionally, appropriate authorities, including the Carver County Police Department, pertinent

tribal entities, and the State Historic Preservation Office and the Office of the State Archaeologist, should be notified.

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