

July 26, 2019

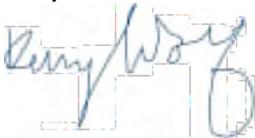
### **Phase III Archaeology Update**

We have wrapped up the first 20 test units as of this week. There was some delay last week with weather and unavoidable boat repairs.

The last few test units were really interesting (of course the good ones show up towards the end!) One area shows evidence of tool production and maintenance. There are a lot of remnants of stone tool making including broken projectile points (arrow heads). One of the test units we opened contained a feature. A feature within an archaeological context is an intact element of something larger that cannot be removed, such as a fire hearth, house floor, sidewalk, etc. In this case, we believe the feature could be a walkway, however, more work needs to be done to know for sure. This feature is next to a historic fence line that ran around the property of a privately owned cabin. We would like to open another unit to expand the original one in order to get a better picture of what the feature may be and of a couple other areas that show real promise for answering research questions.

To date, this island has shown us that Native American groups traveled to the island mainly in the fall and used it for short term camping and hunting. It may have been a place that was continually used over a number of years prior to Euro-Americans settling in the area. We have been able to figure this out through completing systematic surveys of the island and scientific analysis of the recovered materials in the lab. All of the data collected through these processes can give us an ever expanding picture of a history of the island that was not recorded as part of recent memory. We would not be able to do this work if it was not for Carver County Parks doing their due diligence with Minnesota Statute 138: Historical Societies; Sites; Archives; Archaeology; Folklife. Because of this, the new trail and park system that is being built will provide a richer experience for visitors to enjoy nature and learn about the vast history of the island. We are excited to be able to share what we have learned, and help Carver County Parks preserve the island's history for generations to come!

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