

Local Landmark Designation Nomination Form

1. Name

Historic Walton Oaks Park

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number 654 North Stonefield Lane

city, town Whitewater

congressional district 5

state Wisconsin

zip code 53190

county Walworth

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
- private
- both

Public Acquisition

- in process
- being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress

Accessible

- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military

- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

Name City of Whitewater

street & number 312 W. Whitewater Street

city, town Whitewater

vicinity of _____

state Wisconsin

zip 53190

5. Location of Legal Description

(In County Courthouse)

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Court House

street & number 311 South Center Avenue

city, town Jefferson

state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title S-30-152 (GIS Survey) S-1556 (Paul Knudson Survey)

Date February 28, 2000

federal state county local

depository for survey records Jefferson County Courthouse

city, town Jefferson

state Wisconsin

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good

deteriorated
 ruins

Check One
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved (if so, date moved _____)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance see attached

8. Significance

(Continue on separate sheets if necessary)

Period

- prehistoric
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

Areas of Significance-Check and justify below

- archeology-prehistoric
- archeology-historic
- agriculture
- architecture
- art
- commerce
- communications

- community planning
- conservation
- economics
- education
- engineering
- exploration/settlement
- industry
- invention

- landscape architecture
- law
- literature
- military
- music
- philosophy
- politics/government

- religion
- science
- sculpture
- social/humanitarian
- theater
- transportation
- other (specify)

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____

Statement of Significance (Give specific sources for all statements of fact.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

see attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.6 acres

Quadrangle name 42088g6

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References (Optional)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____
E	_____	_____	_____
G	_____	_____	_____

	Zone	Easting	Northing
B	_____	_____	_____
D	_____	_____	_____
F	_____	_____	_____
H	_____	_____	_____

Verbal boundary description and justification see attached

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Blackmer, Chair

organization Whitewater Landmarks Commission

date June 1, 2017

street & number 445 W Center Street

telephone 262-458-2178

city or town Whitewater

state Wisconsin

12. Municipal Data

Zoning District: 41-102

Aldermanic District: 10

Parcel Number: 292-0515-3141-102 Park Crest Subdivision Mun. Code 292

Hearing Approved _____

Landmark Designated () _____

Certified By _____

Date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance:

Walton Oaks Park is a rare, white oak woodland located in the northwestern part of the City of Whitewater in Jefferson County. The 2.6 acre park has a combination of white oak trees which are as much as 250 years old and several second generation younger oaks. Three generations of the Walton family farmed the land where this park is located. By repeated mowing, they maintained the health of this oak woodland. A dense undergrowth of invasive plants and shrubs threatens the health of the oak woodland by not allowing the regeneration of seedlings which require moisture and sunlight. In addition, there is concern regarding precise boundaries of the park and the encroachment of a neighbor who has developed a perennial rock garden on the park property and has planted a hedgerow of conifer trees that overlap into the park.

Statement of Significance:

The oak woodland was once the most common vegetation type in the Midwest but today it is highly endangered. Scientists, foresters, naturalists and environmental organizations have initiated preservation efforts to conserve our white oak ecosystems and woodlands. Land records indicate that the white oak woodland now known as Walton Oaks Park existed in the area prior to the European settlement of the state of Wisconsin. Old growth trees are estimated to be at least 250 years old.

Walton Oaks Park is located in the Park Crest Subdivision at 654 North Stonefield Lane in the northwestern corner of the City of Whitewater. The 2.6 acre parcel was donated to the City in memory of Don and Ethel Walton on August 9, 2008 by Ross and Melissa Walton. Family members in attendance recognized Don and Ethel Walton for their vision of making their dreams come true through hard work. Their legacy allowed for the conservation of a unique treasure for the city to sustain as an historic ecology and beautiful destination to relax and enjoy nature.

The Park Crest Subdivision and the Walton Oaks Park are located on land that was once owned and farmed by Don Walton. Walton came to Whitewater in 1948 with his wife, Ethel and sons, Bob and Ray. In 1968, Don expanded his land holdings by purchasing the above mentioned property from the Musgrove family. He eventually left Whitewater and his son, Ray and grandsons, Roger, Russell and Ross continued to farm the land. In 2000, the property was sold to a Madison developer who started the subdivision. Ross and Melissa Walton purchased the property from the developer in 2002 after (Phase 1) had been developed. Ross continued developing (Phase 2 and 3) of what was planned as a four phase development.

The Walton family installed a bench in the park commemorating the dedication of the park. It is inscribed with the names of Don and Ethel Walton and the year 2008. It is a quiet place to sit and reflect upon the beauty of the area and individuals who made this legacy possible.

The park, which has been in the Walton family for three generations, was accepted on behalf of the City of Whitewater by the Streets/Forestry Superintendent, Chuck Nass and Matt Amundson, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Bibliographical References:

City of Whitewater Department of Parks and Recreation, "Volunteer and Sponsor Recognition".

Henningfield, Julie "Building a family tradition", Whitewater Register, January 23, 2003.

Jefferson County, Wisconsin, GIS map of Walton Oaks Park and Park Crest Subdivision, 2017.

Milwaukee Map Service, City of Whitewater, April 2011.

Urban Forestry Commission, Whitewater, "Walton Oaks Park Development: UFC Recommendations, 2016.

Walton, Ross "The Dedication of Walton Oaks Park" brochure, August 2008.

Whitewater Register "New Park", August 11, 2008.

*Personal interview with Ruth Walton



You are invited to

The Dedication of

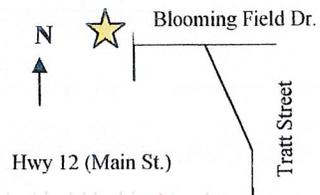
WALTON OAKS PARK

in memory of

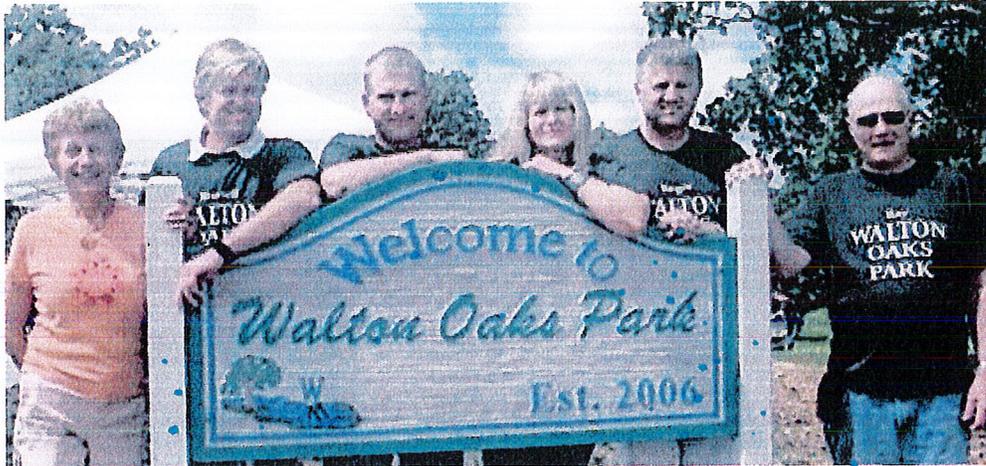
Don and Ethel Walton

Saturday, August 9, 2008 @ 11 am

*West Main Street to Tratt Street,
North on Tratt, West on Blooming Field
Drive to end of street*



(262) 473-7553

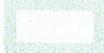


(l-r) Ruth, Russ, Ross, Rita (Walton) Welter, Roger and Ray. The family gathered around the sign after a stroll around the oak shaded walking path, having refreshments and posing for a large family group picture around a black marble bench engraved in the memory of Don and Ethel Walton in the center of the Park. It is worth a visit to stroll under the oaks and enjoy the serenity of the Park.

WALTON OAKS PARK



WEST 1/4 CORNER SECTION 31

	Bench
	Signs
	Park Areas

Aug 10) WALTON OAKS PARK presented to the City in memory of Don and Ethel Walton by Ross and Melissa Walton



Walton Oaks Park presented to City Representative Matt Amundson, Parks and Recreation Director by Ross and Melissa Walton. Ross had addressed the gathering with the historical stories of Don and Ethel and the land that had been provided the City for the Park

Don and Ethel Walton lived in Whitewater from 1948 to 1971. Park Crest Subdivision and Walton Oaks Park are on land that was once owned and farmed by Don Walton. Don purchased this property in 1968 from the Musgroves. When Don left Whitewater, his son, Ray, and grandsons, Roger, Russell, and Ross, continued to farm the land. The property was sold in 2000 to a developer from Madison who started the subdivision. In 2002, Ross and Melissa Walton purchased the property. At that time, only a portion of the land (Phase 1) had been developed. Ross has continued with the development of Phases 2 and 3. The project will finish with the development of Phase 4.



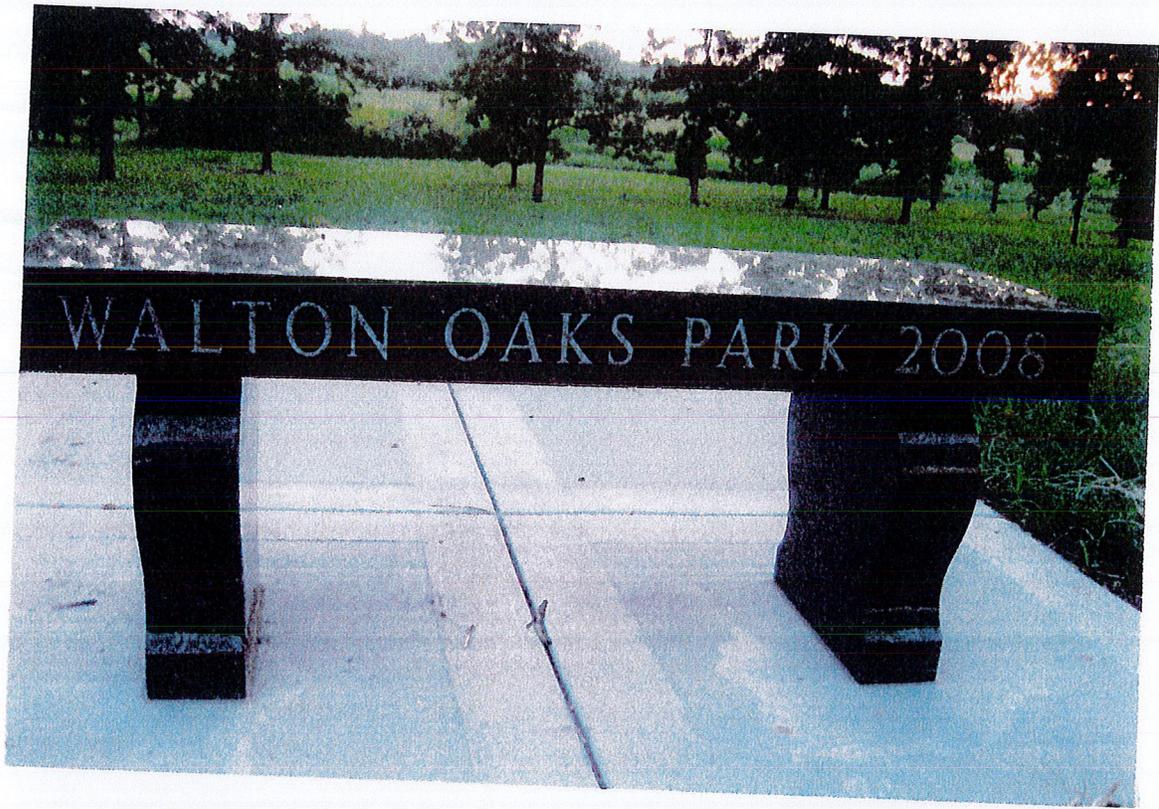
(l-r) Kay (Walton) Ross, Gary Walton and Susan (Walton) Yake, Bob Walton (father of Kay, Gary, Susan and Ken, not pictured), Ray Walton, followed by his four children Roger Walton, Rita (Walton) Welter, Russell Walton and Ross Walton. One of the many beautiful spreading oaks that grace the park is in the background.

In 1947, **Don and Ethel Walton** visited Wisconsin and decided they would move there with their two sons, **Bob and Ray**. **Bob**, the oldest son, started welding in one of the farm buildings at age sixteen. After service in 1951 he moved to Indiana and started a creative and successful welding business, Walton Manufacturing. One of Bob's more famous projects was the production of railings for the boardwalk around the lake at Walt Disney World. **Ray** farmed with his father. In 1953, he married Ruth Parsons from Hebron. They have four children, Roger, Rita, Russell, and Ross. Ray farmed in LaGrange and then came back to Whitewater to help his father. Later, Ray did masonry work. He then started a home construction business. He built most of the homes on Walton Drive. In the 1970's, he started acquiring numerous rental properties. After retiring from the building business, Ray started Walton Realty.









MEMORIES OF DON & ETHEL WALTON

In 1947, Don and Ethel Walton visited Wisconsin and decided they would move there with their two sons, Bob and Ray. They had a small farm at Camp Point, Illinois; however, Don wanted to dairy on a larger scale in Wisconsin. So, with this in mind, they decided to buy a farm in Whitewater. They arrived with two Jersey cows and very few possessions. It was a new life and a new challenge. Soon the barn was filled with many Holstein cows.

Bob, the oldest son, started welding in one of the farm buildings at age sixteen. He invented a trip rope release which he patented. They were very well received by farmers as it saved many broken ropes, as well as time and repairs while plowing. Bob moved to Princeton, Illinois in 1949. He married Doris Norene there in 1950. They have four children, Susan, Gary, Ken, and Kay. Bob served our country in the Army in 1951. After service he moved to Indiana and started a creative and successful welding business, Walton Manufacturing. One of Bob's more famous projects was the production of railings for the boardwalk around the lake at Walt Disney World.

Ray farmed with his father. In 1953, he married Ruth Parsons from Hebron. They have four children, Roger, Rita, Russell, and Ross. Ray farmed in LaGrange and then came back to Whitewater to help his father. Later, Ray did masonry work. He then started a home construction business. He built most of the homes on Walton Drive. In the 1970's, he started acquiring numerous rental properties. After retiring from the building business, Ray started Walton Realty.

After acquiring a nice herd of dairy cows, many hogs and chickens, and producing excellent crops, Don needed a new challenge. He decided to stop milking cows and started the Twin Oaks Mobile Home Park in 1955. The first winter only one mobile home, belonging to Tony and Eileen Willegal, was there. The mobile home park grew quickly Don attracted people from other trailer parks to come to his quality park. He would pull trailers as long as forty feet from other parks with his Delta 98 Oldsmobile. Don and Ethel also bought old mobile homes and completely updated them. Don would do all of the maintenance work and Ethel would sew new curtains and clean and polish them inside and out. Don and Ethel kept the mobile home park immaculate. Everything was always painted and the grounds perfectly manicured. When new residents moved in, Don would plant flowers and trees around their trailer.

Don sold Twin Oaks Mobile Home Park in 1962. He then bought the Marshall farm and with that came new challenges. Don burned down the

barn and remodeled the beautiful farm house into a four unit apartment building. Don and Ethel lived in the main apartment. He farmed the land and used part of it to develop Walton Drive. Later he sold off much of the farm to the University of Whitewater. Perkins Stadium and DLK Field house are located there today.

Don then purchased the Musgrove farm. He farmed this land until he moved to Illinois. Don and Ethel's grandson, Ross, was able to bring this property back into the family after purchasing it from a Madison developer. This is where Park Crest subdivision is located.

Don loved his grandchildren and loved to take them everywhere on his Oliver tractor. He took his grandsons to the woods to cut wood. He even took his granddaughter, Rita, to school on the tractor on her birthday.

Ethel worked just as hard as Don. She was not afraid to do farm work, but she really shined as a homemaker. She prepared a Thanksgiving-style meal every time her family or friends visited. So much of the food came from the land, such as canned tomatoes and peaches. Ethel canned well over one hundred quarts of items yearly. She also prepared chickens that they raised as well as fish that Don caught throughout the year. Her cinnamon rolls were everyone's favorite.

When it came to crafts and sewing, Ethel was like a small factory. She made flannel shirts and various other clothing for the children and grandchildren. From patching to hemming, she did it all. She knitted, crocheted, hooked rugs, braided rugs, made quilts, and bed covers. One of Ethel's larger projects was making teddy bears and stuffed animals that she gave to ill or under privileged children. She always made quantities of everything, that's why she seemed like a factory.

Don and Ethel will always be remembered as hard workers, always conserving and using every scrap of useable material. Don had the ability to visualize his dreams and then see them come true with hard work and perseverance. He taught his children and grandchildren that if you want to succeed, you not only must work hard to accomplish your dreams, but also that you must create them. He thrived on completing a project so that he could move on to a new challenge. He never looked back, just ahead to the future and what was next.

Through Don, the Walton family has aspired to succeed, has persevered to achieve, and has created a legacy that all can follow. Like the great Henry David Thoreau once said, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."



Large number of family, friends were in attendance and several Common Council members and Park and Rec. Board members and city staff.



Among those in attendance and sharing stories about Don and Ethel Walton were Leland Allenstein, DVM; Jerry and Nancy Wendt, Closing comments were given by Jerry; and Dick Dunham, who worked with Don and Ray in the '70's.

Walton Oaks Park dedicated in Whitewater on Saturday

By Melissa Walton

Special to the Union

WHITEWATER — The City of Whitewater dedicated Walton Oaks Park as the community's newest recreational greenspace on Saturday.

Presented to the city in memory of Don and Ethel Walton by Ross and Melissa Walton, the park is located in the Park Crest subdivision at the end of Blooming Field Drive on the northwest side of the city.

The park was accepted on behalf of the city by Streets/Forestry Superintendent Chuck Nass.

Park Crest subdivision and Walton Oaks Park are on land that was once owned and farmed by Don Walton. Walton and his wife, Ethel Walton lived in Whitewater from 1948-71.

In 1947, the Waltons had a small farm at Camp Point, Ill. Don was interested in establishing a larger dairy operation in Wisconsin.

The couple visited Wisconsin and decided they would move there with their two sons, Bob and Ray. They arrived with two Jersey cows and very few possessions. It was not long before the barn was filled with many Holstein cows.

After acquiring a herd of dairy cows, hogs and chickens, Walton was seeking a new challenge. He decided to stop milking cows and started the Twin Oaks Mobile

severance.

Walton taught his children and grandchildren that if you want to succeed, you not only must work hard to accomplish your dreams, but also that you must create them.

Home Park in 1955.

During the first winter, only one mobile home, that belonging to Tony and Eileen Willegal, was located in the new park.

However, the mobile home park grew quickly as Walton attracted people from other trailer parks to come to his site. He would pull trailers as long as 40 feet from other parks with his Delta 98 Oldsmobile.

In addition, the Waltons would purchase older mobile homes and refurbish them. Don would do all of the maintenance work and Ethel would sew new curtains and clean and polish them inside and out.

When it came to crafts and sewing, Ethel was like a small factory. She made flannel shirts and various other clothing for the children and grandchildren.

She knitted, crocheted, hooked rugs, braided rugs, made quilts, and bed covers.

One of Ethel's larger projects was making teddy bears and stuffed animals that she gave to ill or under privileged children.

From patching to hemming, she did it all, always seemingly having large quantities of everything.

Between the two, the entire park was kept immaculate. When new residents moved in, Don would plant flowers and trees around their trailer.

The couple sold Twin Oaks Mobile Home Park in 1962, starting fresh again with a new

challenge. His grandchildren noted at the park dedication that Walton thrived on completing a project so that he could move on to a new challenge.

Through Don and Ethel, the Walton family has aspired to

challenge at the Marshall farm.

At the new property, Walton burned down the barn and remodeled the farmhouse into a four-unit apartment building.

He farmed the land and used part of it to develop Walton Drive.

Years later, Walton sold much of the farm to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Perkins Stadium and the Kachel Fieldhouse are located on the former farm.

The Waltons next purchased the former Musgrove farm before returning to Illinois.

When Don left Whitewater, his son, Ray, and grandsons, Roger, Russell, and Ross, continued to farm the land. The property was sold in 2000 to a developer from Madison who started the subdivision.

In 2002, Ross and Melissa Walton purchased the property so it returned to the family.

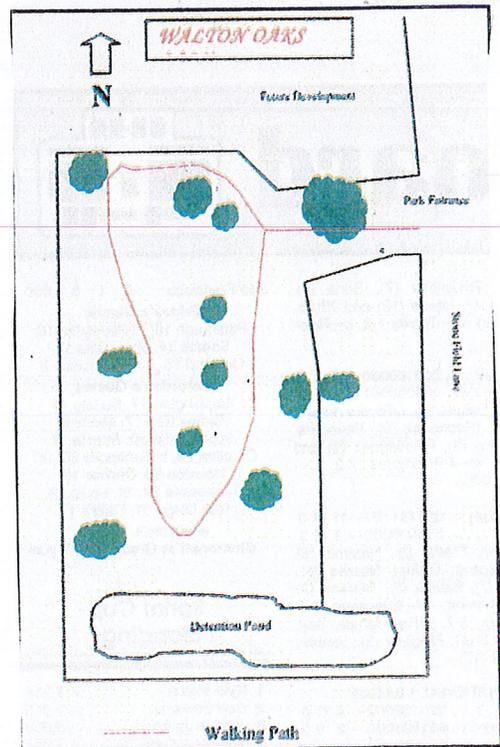
At that time, only a portion of the land had been developed. Since then, the subdivision has continued with a second and third phase and is slated to be completed with development of a fourth and final phase.

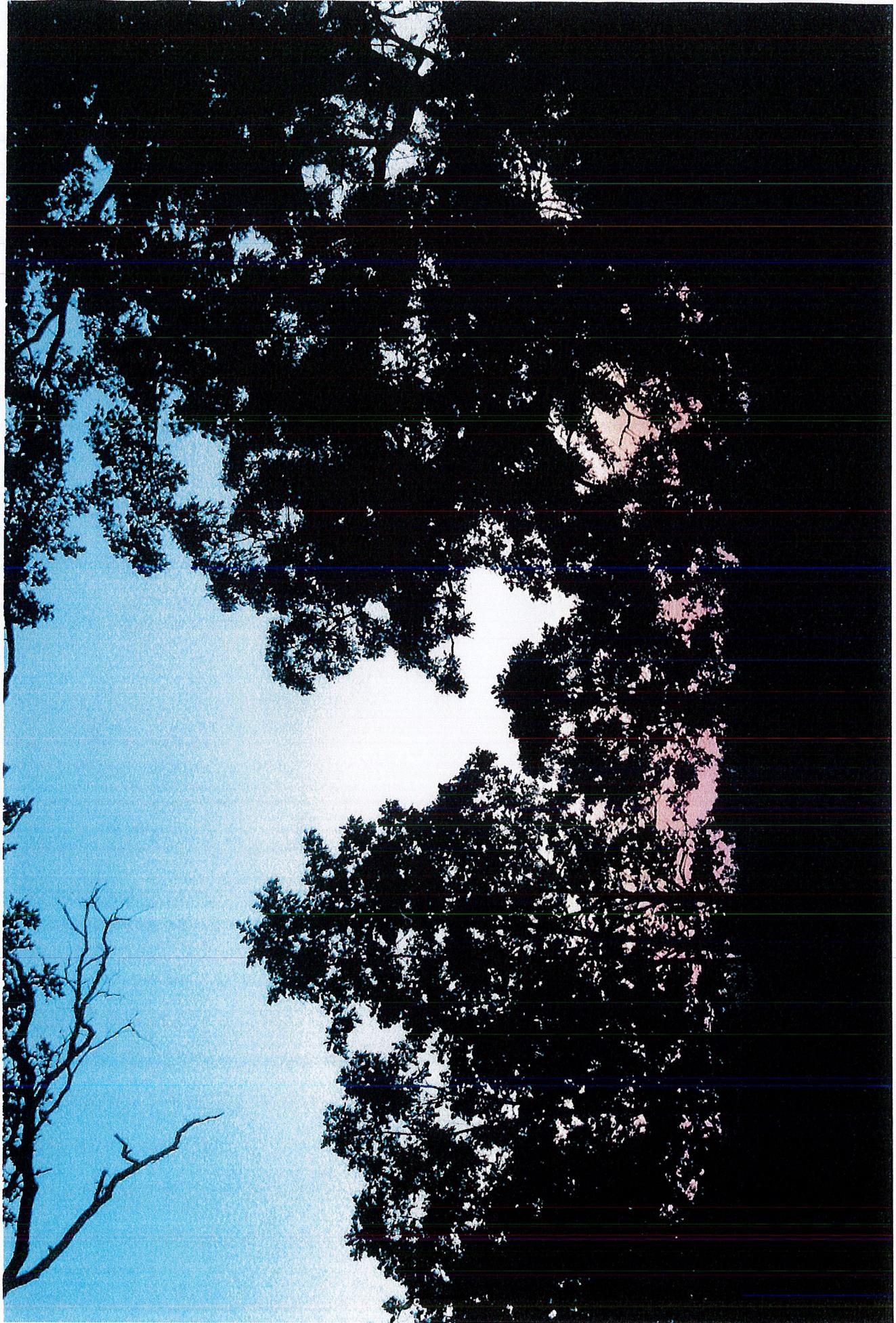
At the dedication ceremony Saturday, family members recognized Don and Ethel Walton for being hardworkers and conservationists. The two were considered to be visionaries who made their dreams become a reality through hard work and perseverance, has persevered to achieve, and has created a legacy that all can follow. Like the author Henry David Thoreau once said, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."



NEW PARK — Members of the Walton family and representatives from the City of Whitewater gathered at the new Walton Oaks Park Saturday for the dedication of the new parkland. The park is located in the Park Crest subdivision at the end of Blooming Field Drive on the northwest side of Whitewater. It was donated to the city by Ross and Melissa Walton in memory of Don and Ethel Walton, who once owned the property. Above left, Whitewater Park and Recreation director Matt Amundson accepts the park on behalf of the city from Ross and Melissa Walton at the park sign. Pictured above right are members of the Walton family. They are, from left to right: Kay (Walton) Ross, Gary Walton and Susan (Walton) Yake, Bob Walton (father of Kay, Gary, Susan and Ken, not pictured), Ray Walton, followed by his four children Roger Walton, Rita (Walton) Welter, Russell Walton and Ross Walton. Shown at left is a map of Walton Oaks Park and the walking path that meanders through it. — Photos by Jim Stewart.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008





Walton Oak Park

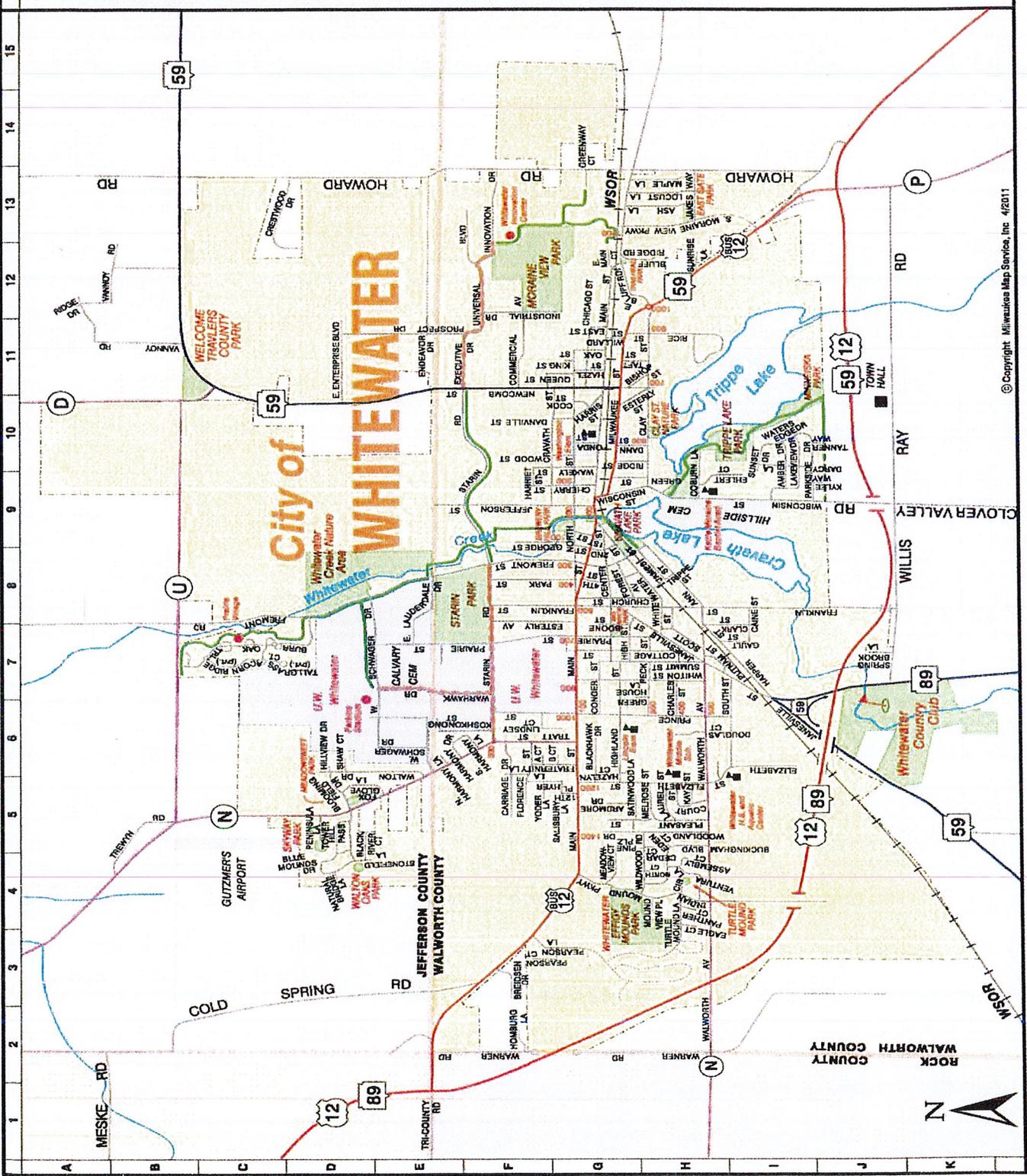
Whitewater Street Index

14.1	14.2	14.3	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.0
15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	15.6	15.7	15.8	15.9	16.0
16.1	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.5	16.6	16.7	16.8	16.9	17.0
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53.1	53.2	53.3	53.4	53.5	53.6	53.7	53.8	53.9	54.0
54.1	54.2	54.3	54.4	54.5	54.6	54.7	54.8	54.9	55.0
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66.1	66.2	66.3	66.4	66.5	66.6	66.7	66.8	66.9	67.0
67.1	67.2	67.3	67.4	67.5	67.6	67.7	67.8	67.9	68.0
68.1	68.2	68.3	68.4	68.5	68.6	68.7	68.8	68.9	69.0
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70.1	70.2	70.3	70.4	70.5	70.6	70.7	70.8	70.9	71.0
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72.1	72.2	72.3	72.4	72.5	72.6	72.7	72.8	72.9	73.0
73.1	73.2	73.3	73.4	73.5	73.6	73.7	73.8	73.9	74.0
74.1	74.2	74.3	74.4	74.5	74.6	74.7	74.8	74.9	75.0
75.1	75.2	75.3	75.4	75.5	75.6	75.7	75.8	75.9	76.0
76.1	76.2	76.3	76.4	76.5	76.6	76.7	76.8	76.9	77.0
77.1	77.2	77.3	77.4	77.5	77.6	77.7	77.8	77.9	78.0
78.1	78.2	78.3	78.4	78.5	78.6	78.7	78.8	78.9	79.0
79.1	79.2	79.3	79.4	79.5	79.6	79.7	79.8	79.9	80.0
80.1	80.2	80.3	80.4	80.5	80.6	80.7	80.8	80.9	81.0
81.1	81.2	81.3	81.4	81.5	81.6	81.7	81.8	81.9	82.0
82.1	82.2	82.3	82.4	82.5	82.6	82.7	82.8	82.9	83.0
83.1	83.2	83.3	83.4	83.5	83.6	83.7	83.8	83.9	84.0
84.1	84.2	84.3	84.4	84.5	84.6	84.7	84.8	84.9	85.0
85.1	85.2	85.3	85.4	85.5	85.6	85.7	85.8	85.9	86.0
86.1	86.2	86.3	86.4	86.5	86.6	86.7	86.8	86.9	87.0
87.1	87.2	87.3	87.4	87.5	87.6	87.7	87.8	87.9	88.0
88.1	88.2	88.3	88.4	88.5	88.6	88.7	88.8	88.9	89.0
89.1	89.2	89.3	89.4	89.5	89.6	89.7	89.8	89.9	90.0
90.1	90.2	90.3	90.4	90.5	90.6	90.7	90.8	90.9	91.0
91.1	91.2	91.3	91.4	91.5	91.6	91.7	91.8	91.9	92.0
92.1	92.2	92.3	92.4	92.5	92.6	92.7	92.8	92.9	93.0
93.1	93.2	93.3	93.4	93.5	93.6	93.7	93.8	93.9	94.0
94.1	94.2	94.3	94.4	94.5	94.6	94.7	94.8	94.9	95.0
95.1	95.2	95.3	95.4	95.5	95.6	95.7	95.8	95.9	96.0
96.1	96.2	96.3	96.4	96.5	96.6	96.7	96.8	96.9	97.0
97.1	97.2	97.3	97.4	97.5	97.6	97.7	97.8	97.9	98.0
98.1	98.2	98.3	98.4	98.5	98.6	98.7	98.8	98.9	99.0
99.1	99.2	99.3	99.4	99.5	99.6	99.7	99.8	99.9	100.0

LEGEND

- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Multi-Use Trail
- On-Street Trail/Bike Lane
- Planned Trail
- Park
- Cometary
- Point of Interest
- School

SCALE
0 25 50
In Miles



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Volunteer & Sponsor Recognition

Football Volunteer Coaches

Eric Runez
Mark Fero
Steve Faulkner, Jr.

Jason Alexander
Matt Amundson
Tyler Menz

Jeff Miles
Phil Partoll
Will Bazeley

Jeremy Niemuth
Ray Trost
Will Thies

High School Football Player Volunteers

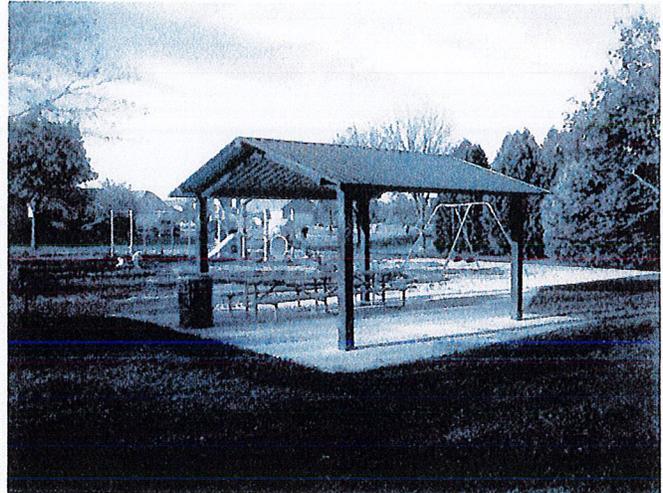
Alex Loofboro
Nick Romani

Connor Nimmow
Tim Boyer

Dylan McKay
Ryan Owen

Walton Oaks Park

Walton Oaks Park was dedicated on August 9, 2008. This 2.6 acre park located in the Park Crest subdivision is a beautiful destination. The aesthetic beauty of several large oak trees create a perfect place to relax and enjoy nature. A great deal of thanks is owed to Ross Walton and family for the work done in creating the park. The park can be found at 654 N Stone Field Lane.



Turtle Mound Park Shelter

Thanks to a generous donation by the Whitewater Optimists Club, a shelter was installed next to the playground at Turtle Mound Park. Additionally, a concrete path was created from the sidewalk on Turtle Mound Circle to the new shelter. This shelter is a wonderful addition to the park and will serve as a welcome location for parents watching their children on the playground who want to escape the hot sun in the summertime.

Youth Halloween Party Sponsors



Coburn Company
Whitewater Wal-Mart
Sassy Shirts
D.L.K Enterprises
SchenckAccuRate
Mercy Fitness & Aquatic Center
Tri-County Heating & Cooling
Tincher Realty Inc

Hawk Bowl
Commercial Bank
Ketterhagen
Culvers
Associated Bank
First Citizens
GMA Printing
Culligan Water

Bicyclewise & Sports Fitness



Walton Oaks Park

Established: 2008

Mini (2.6 acres)



The park was dedicated as part of the Park Crest residential subdivision. Ross Walton wanted to preserve the memory of the Walton Farm and a bench was placed in memory of Don & Ethel Walton. This passive park has amazing sunset views and some terrific Oak trees.

Recreation Programs:

No recreation programs are housed at the park

Recent Improvements:

-

Recommendations:

- Identify plan for annual maintenance at the site
- Review of site plan by Urban Forestry Commission
- Explore opportunities to enhance visitor experience through technology

5 Year Upgrades

COMMUNITY

Building a family tradition

By Julie Henningfield
WHITEWATER REGISTER EDITOR

It was the late Don Walton who paved the way to a career in building and development for his children and grandchildren.

Don came to Whitewater in 1949 to dairy farm, and he later purchased adjoining farms.

His grandson, Ross Walton, fondly remembers when Don used to put him and his brother, Russell, in a box to ride in alongside their grandfather on the tractor.

"My brothers and sister, Russell, Rita, Roger and myself would ride with him, and help him out when we were younger," Ross said. "We learned how to work hard at an early age."

In 1966, Don's son, Ray, started building homes on Walton Drive.

Later on, Don sold land to the University of Wisconsin-

Whitewater for development, including the land where the Williams Center is today.

Carrying on the family tradition, Don's daughter-in-law, Ruth Walton, broker and owner of Walton Realty, and grandsons continue to develop land and specialize in new construction of single family homes, condos, investment apartment units and vacant lots/land.

Ross said he attributes much of his knowledge about the family business to Don.

"He really was an inspiration," Ross said. "I give credit to him for what I know. He was a wonderful teacher."

Ruth echoed Ross' sentiments.

"He taught me the basics about the business, from everything to business to building," Ruth said.

The family businesses consist of Century 21 Walton Realty, which Ruth operates; Walton Enterprises Inc., Ross and Melissa Walton, owners; and R.R. Walton and Co. LTD., which Russell owns.

Most recently, the Walton family developed the South Blooming Field Acres, Foxglove Condominiums, Park Crest Subdivision and Pine Bluff Subdivision.

These properties offer all of the conveniences of the city combined with country appeal.

Ross is currently working on the Park Crest Subdivision, which is expected to be completed in six to seven years.

"I am proud to be third-generation developer," Ross said. "My grandpa died in the fall, but from where he was living, he could still see the progress being made at the Blooming Field location, which was the farmland he used to farm. I think it was nice that he could see what he had taught us being put to use."

For more information on Walton Realty, 202 E. Main St., Whitewater, call 473-4454; for information on Park Crest, call Ross at 473-7553.



Blood dri

Whitewater resident on a smile as Red prepares his arm for

Public meetings

Thursday, Jan. 23

League of Women Voters
Whitewater, 7 p.m., Conference Room, Fairhaven

City of Whitewater Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m., Community Room, Whitewater Municipal Building, 312 W. Whitewater St. - Russell Walton, 211 St. Prince St., to construct a detached a garage, with a variance to Section 19.06.120(F) to exceed

requirement for accessory structures in the side and rear yard by 136 square feet.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Southern Kettle Moraine Green Party, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Cafe Carpe, 18 S. Water St., Fort Atkinson - Discussion of Southern Kettle Moraine local party Green Party Chapter

Monday, Jan. 27

Municipal Building, Community Room, 312 W. Whitewater St. - Agenda includes continuation of the public hearing for consideration of a conditional use permit application for a dance club for ages 18 and older to be located at 149 W. Main St. for Janos Glynn.

Thursday, Feb. 6

Richm

The Richmond Town recommended approval of primary plat for Hills Subdivision presented by Jay Meyers at the meeting. The board directed Ms. Crispell Snyder when

WALTON OAKS PARK DEVELOPMENT: UFC RECOMMENDATIONS

Background to Walton Oaks Discussions

Parks and Recreation asked the Urban Forestry Commission to carefully review each city park and make recommendations for maintenance and development. Walton Oaks was one of the three being reviewed in Spring 2016.

UFC Investigations, Review and Conclusions

Maggie Zoellner – Identification of rare White Oak Woodland, recommendations for removal of invasives and restoration to health

Connections: University groups to assist with invasives

UFC Recommendation for Park: Like Effigy Mounds Park, this is a unique treasure for the city to sustain as an historic ecology, a quiet place for calm and bird watching.

UFC Findings

Health Threat to Oak Woodland: The Park has a combination of white oak trees, some as old as 250 years and some second-generation, younger oaks. Three generations of the Walton family farmed the land and, by mowing, maintained the health of the oak woodland. Dense undergrowth and invasives now threaten the health of the oaks and the ability of the oak woodland to regenerate through seedlings, which need sunlight and moisture.

Boundary Confusion: As UFC members reviewed Walton Oaks, confusion emerged over precise boundaries. They are not well marked at any point. It is easier to guess where a hedge or cornfield makes it obvious, but all reported concern over trespassing into private gardens along the side of the park that abutted the residential lots on the east side.

Rock Gardens: Owners of northern lot have developed numerous, large rock gardens IN the park and around oaks:

- One in their lot on the north crosses the boundary to incorporate an oak tree that is in the park.
- One large garden starts at their southwest corner and angles diagonally northwest well into the park.
- Three or four similar, large, rock-encircled perennial gardens are entirely in the park and well beyond the residential boundary, especially at the north end. These surround at least four or five young oak trees with mixed perennials, some of which are native. The gardens also include such

personal decorative items as a wheelbarrow, numerous hanging bird feeders, etc.

Residential lots to the south: one has wild landscaping; the most southerly has natural landscaping of lawns and coniferous trees:

- Along the western boundary of both lots, densely planted young conifers overlap into the park

UFC Recommendation (DATE)

Urban Forestry Commission: the rock gardens be removed as inappropriate (Unanimous)

- Style and content of the rock gardens is not consistent with restoration of the endemic white oak ecology
- The rock gardens confuse the public over their park's boundaries
- The rock gardens created around trees are an identified hazard to the health of the encased trees and should be removed as soon as possible.

Parks and Recreation Board Recommendation (DATE)

Install visible posts on key points of the boundary of the park to distinguish private property from land in Walton Oaks public park, belonging to and maintained for all citizens of Whitewater. (Unanimous)

Proposal Led by Owners of Northern Residential Lot (DATE)

- Donate their rock gardens to the city
 - Volunteer their resources and services
 - Achieve a Win-Win Solution
 - Engage their students in park maintenance
 - Promote and lead a neighborhood involvement.
-

PRIORITIES

The Oak Woodland was passed to the city by a family that has been here for three generations. They entrusted the city with its ongoing existence as a calm and peaceful place for all citizens to watch birds and see the sun set in the west.

In its current condition, the oak woodland will die as the older trees rot and break and younger trees and their seedlings fight other trees, bushes and shrubs for sunlight and water. We are fortunate that Ross Walton alerted the city to the need for maintenance. Restoration and health of this unique white oak woodland ecology is a responsibility to the entire community of Whitewater and a major priority for this park.

Access: Neighbors requested access to the park through better pathways. This is consistent with recommendations from the UFC. Restoration of the oak woodland requires both careful pathways and clearing of undergrowth. The major path around the woodland should be handicapped accessible with a few benches for bird watching.

Playground. There is already a playground a block away with young trees already planted.

Retention of Rock Gardens. The very nature of the rock gardens is inconsistent with restoration of the white oak woodland ecological system, especially as gardens that enclose young oaks with soil and plants are a known threat to their health. They need to be relocated.

PROPOSED: Remove rock gardens in park and relocate locally as a display of native perennials.

Alternative 1 – Berm on Property Line – landowner controlled plantings with lovely flowers and bird feeders

- Offer a berm running along the north-western and northern property lines of the northernmost residential lot., either continuous or with an exit to the park,
- Offer all rocks and plants for recreation of rock gardens on the berm,
- Provide some city assistance with removal, temporary storage, relocation of rocks and plants if needed.
- Offer appropriate shrubs along west side and / or north side of berm for the land owners privacy

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance:

Walton Oaks Park is a rare, white oak woodland located in the northwestern part of the City of Whitewater in Jefferson County. The 2.6 acre park has a combination of white oak trees which are as much as 250 years old and several second generation younger oaks. Three generations of the Walton family farmed the land where this park is located. By repeated mowing, they maintained the health of this oak woodland. A dense undergrowth of invasive plants and shrubs threatens the health of the oak woodland by not allowing the regeneration of seedlings which require moisture and sunlight. In addition, there is concern regarding precise boundaries of the park and the encroachment of a neighbor who has developed a perennial rock garden on the park property and has planted a hedgerow of conifer trees that overlap into the park.

Statement of Significance:

The oak woodland was once the most common vegetation type in the Midwest but today it is highly endangered. Scientists, foresters, naturalists and environmental organizations have initiated preservation efforts to conserve our white oak ecosystems and woodlands. Land records indicate that the white oak woodland now known as Walton Oaks Park existed in the area prior to the European settlement of the state of Wisconsin. Old growth trees are estimated to be at least 250 years old.

Walton Oaks Park is located in the Park Crest Subdivision at 654 North Stonefield Lane in the northwestern corner of the City of Whitewater. The 2.6 acre parcel was donated to the City in memory of Don and Ethel Walton on August 9, 2008 by Ross and Melissa Walton. Family members in attendance recognized Don and Ethel Walton for their vision of making their dreams come true through hard work. Their legacy allowed for the conservation of a unique treasure for the city to sustain as an historic ecology and beautiful destination to relax and enjoy nature.

The Park Crest Subdivision and the Walton Oaks Park are located on land that was once owned and farmed by Don Walton. Walton came to Whitewater in 1948 with his wife, Ethel and sons, Bob and Ray. In 1968, Don expanded his land holdings by purchasing the above mentioned property from the Musgrove family. He eventually left Whitewater and his son, Ray and grandsons, Roger, Russell and Ross continued to farm the land. In 2000, the property was sold to a Madison developer who started the subdivision. Ross and Melissa Walton purchased the property from the developer in 2002 after (Phase 1) had been developed. Ross continued developing (Phase 2 and 3) of what was planned as a four phase development.

The Walton family installed a bench in the park commemorating the dedication of the park. It is inscribed with the names of Don and Ethel Walton and the year 2008. It is a quiet place to sit and reflect upon the beauty of the area and individuals who made this legacy possible.

The park, which has been in the Walton family for three generations, was accepted on behalf of the City of Whitewater by the Streets/Forestry Superintendent, Chuck Nass and Matt Amundson, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Bibliographical References:

City of Whitewater Department of Parks and Recreation, "Volunteer and Sponsor Recognition".

Henningfield, Julie "Building a family tradition", Whitewater Register, January 23, 2003.

Jefferson County, Wisconsin, GIS map of Walton Oaks Park and Park Crest Subdivision, 2017.

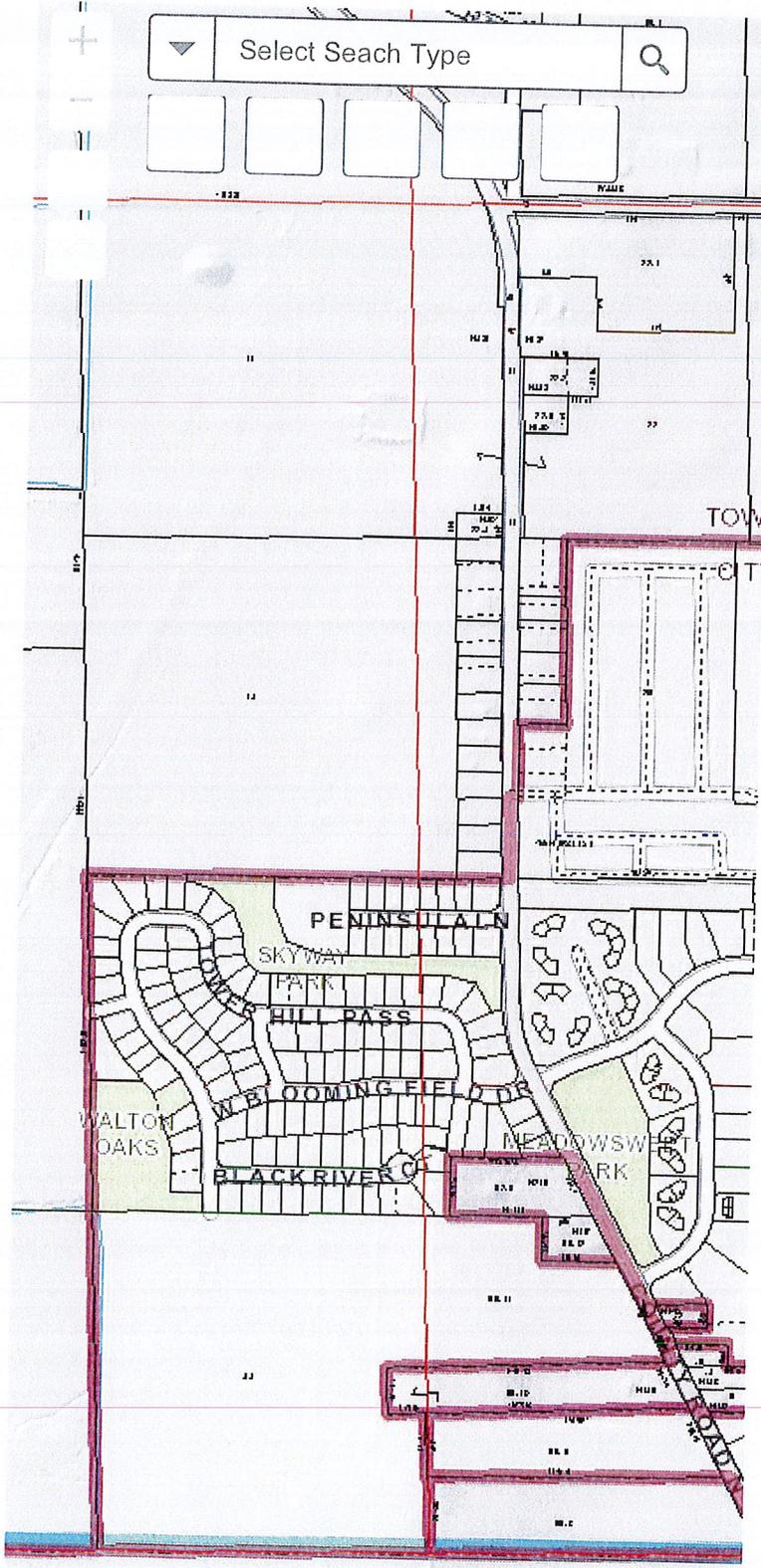
Milwaukee Map Service, City of Whitewater, April 2011.

Urban Forestry Commission, Whitewater, "Walton Oaks Park Development: UFC Recommendations, 2016.

Walton, Ross "The Dedication of Walton Oaks Park" brochure, August 2008.

Whitewater Register "New Park", August 11, 2008.

*Personal interview with Ruth Walton



Layer List

Operational Layers

- Property_Ownership
- County_Zoning
- Environmental_Corridors Public
- Extraterritorial_Limits
- Farmland_Preservation_Plan
- Land_Use_Inventory_for_Towns
- Public_Safety
- Schools
- Soil_Information
- Surveying
- Topography
- Voting
- Water_Resources
- 2015 Aerial
- Historic Aerials
-  Water_Resources - Wetland
-  Owner Assessment Taxes
-  Property Owners
-  Site Addresses
-  Property Assessment Class

1000ft