



# Olin Park Project

**PALEONTOLOGIST TAKES OVER  
LOCAL PARK**  
**By Ann H. Local Park**

# **Police Response Before 2009**

**Stings**

**Arrests for ordinance violations**

**Arrests for sex related offenses**



# **Defining the Problem**

**1. Public Sex**

**2. The Takeover of the Park**

**3. The Absence of Legitimate Users**

**4. The Reputation of the Park**

**5. Behaviors That Cause Fear**

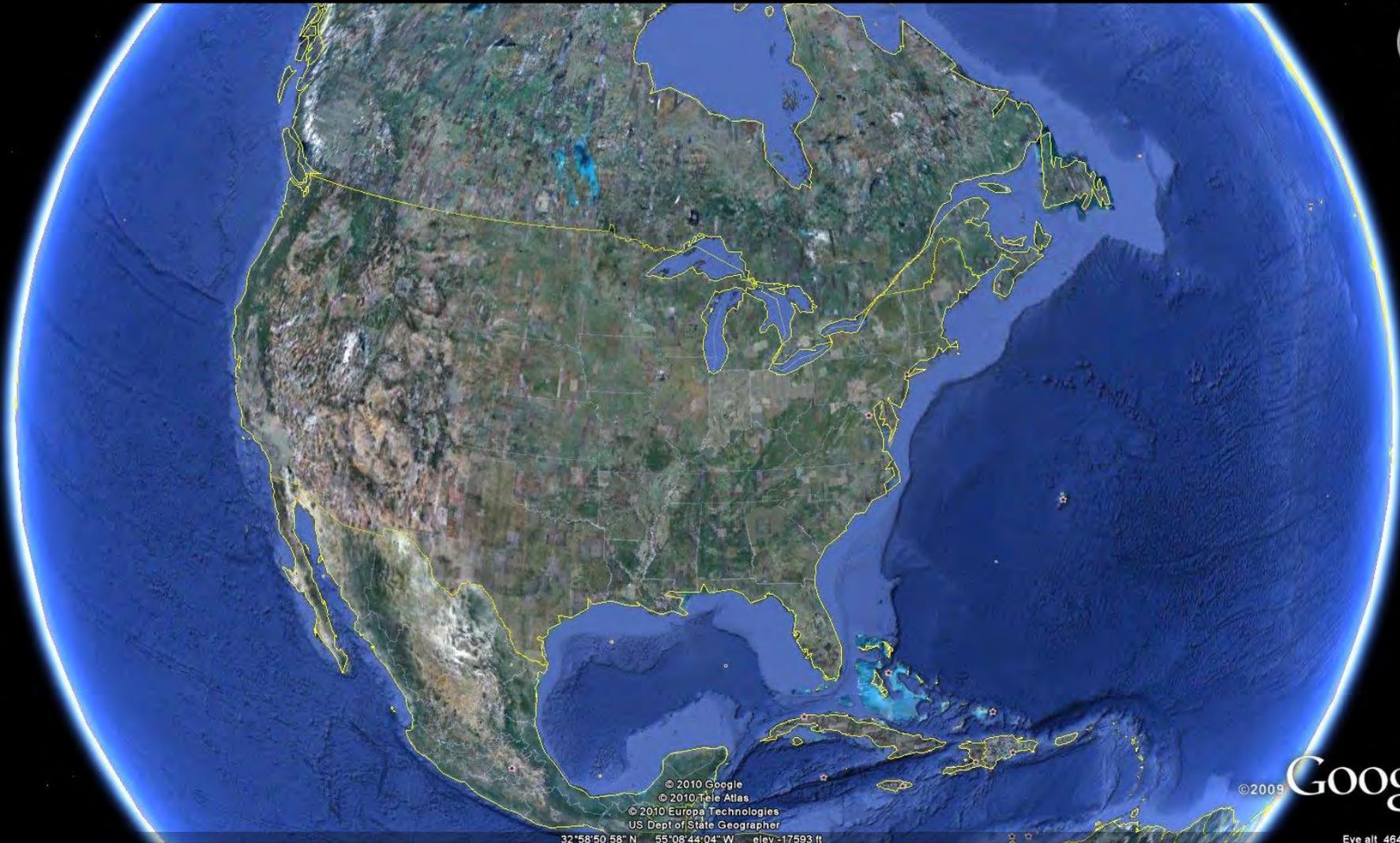
## **Myths and Assumptions:**

- **Almost everyone in the city is aware of the parks reputation**
- **Citizens avoid the park because of its reputation**
- **Those engaged in the behavior are primarily gay men**
- **The problem's existed forever and there's nothing we can do**
- **The park is listed on the internet and that drives the problem**
- **Most of the sex in the woods happens at night**
- **Most of the visitors are from out of state**
- **Enforcement suppresses the problem for a while**
- **If we solve the problem in Olin it will just move somewhere else**



# Orientation to Olin Park



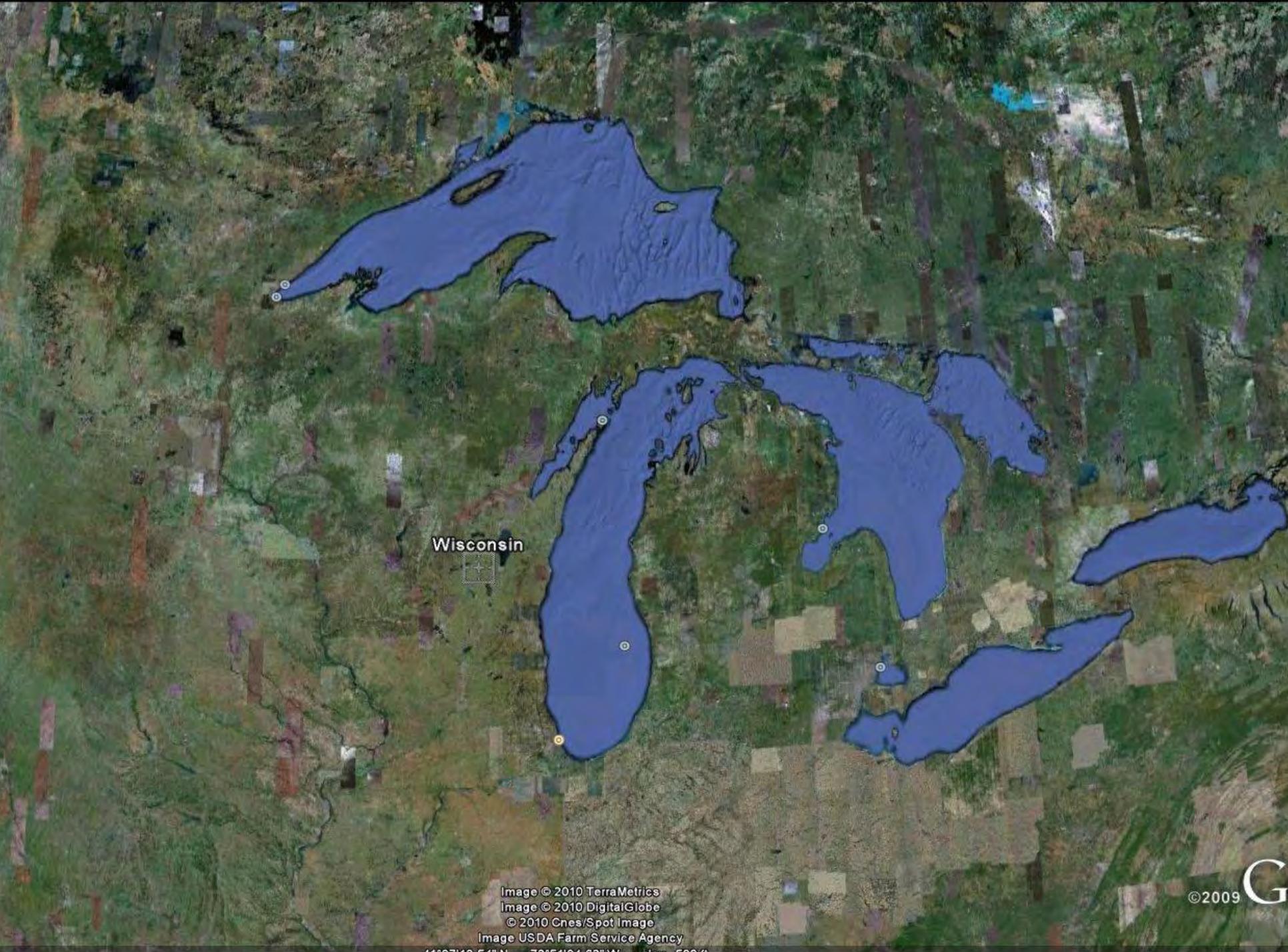


© 2010 Google  
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US Dept of State Geographer

32°58'50.58" N 55°08'44.04" W elev = 17593 ft

©2009 Google™

Eve alt 4643.15 mi



Wisconsin



Image © 2010 TerraMetrics

Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe

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Image USDA Farm Service Agency

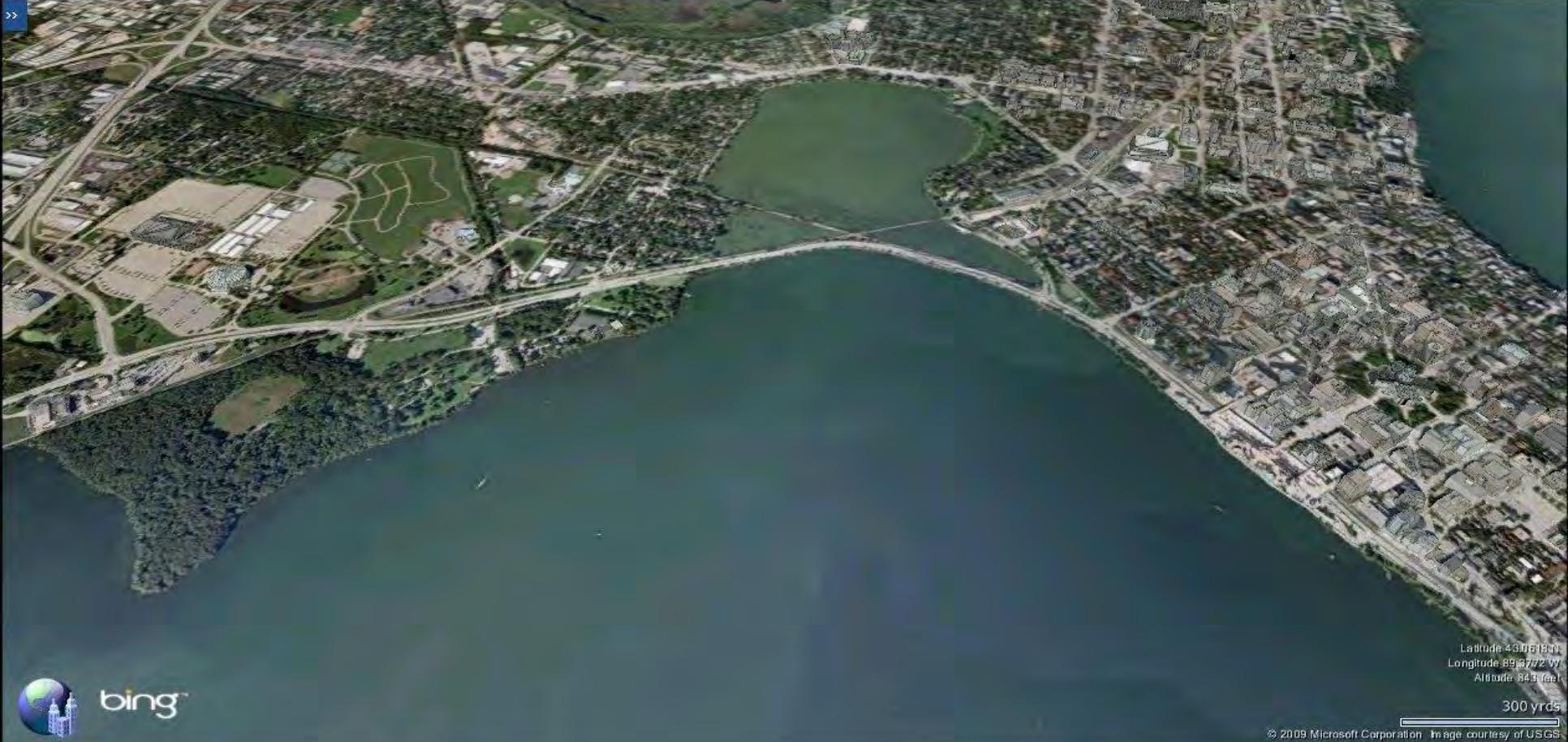
41827140\_511°N - 72251104\_82°W - 10m/500 ft

©2009









>>

Latitude 43.0618 N  
Longitude 89.3772 W  
Altitude 843 feet

300 yds

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2D 3D Road Aerial  
E  
S

# **Officer Mike Evans 2006 Observations:**

- Almost all vehicles involved in cruising are from in state**
- There are some regular users who come to the park every day**
- There is a lot of activity during daylight hours**
- Because of commuter parkers it is difficult to observe before 4 pm**
- When two guys connect, there are 3 equally possible outcomes**

# Data Collection, Observation and Survey



# Environmental Design Analysis

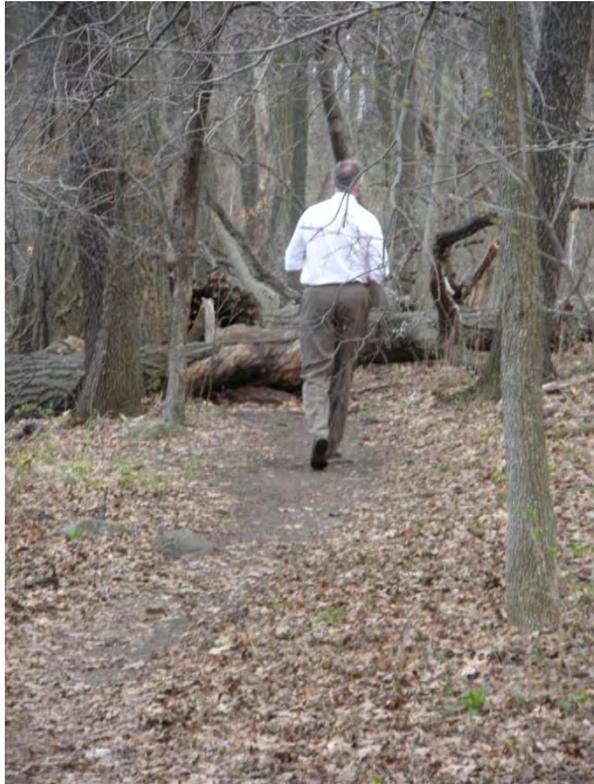
1. Lack of observers
2. Lack of access control
3. Poor maintenance
4. Little resolve in restoration
5. Cover and concealment
6. Parking by non park users
7. Longstanding reputation
8. Isolation from a supporting neighborhood
9. Under-used 65-acre natural area
10. Excess parking for park functions
11. Several looping drives
12. Easy visibility of vehicles throughout the park



# The Size and Complexity of the Problem



# Identifying Behaviors And Individuals



# Defining The Problem In Terms Of Fear



# User Group Sensitivity To Pressure

## The Garlic Mustard Story

Michele's observation of the garlic mustard lady

Plus our knowledge of the character of the cruisers

Lead to borrowing a small idea





COMMUNITY  
POLICING TEAM  
OLIN PARK PROJECT

WORK  
PARTY

# Not A Gay Issue

- The gay community did not consider this a gay issue
- Though exclusively males, many did not identify as gay
- Vehicle data confirmed this
- Police reports confirmed this
- The sexual behavior is more complex
- It includes voyeurs, exhibitionists and solo activity



# Core Group

Activity in the park was being driven by the presence of a core group of local users who visited the park frequently.

By March of 2010 we had identified several hundred individuals who were counted repeatedly during our data collection.

An average of more than 200 persons a day cruised the park just during daylight hours.



# Presentation



**The dog and pony show**



# The Dog Park Experiment



# Reputation

**83%** of citizens living closest to the park avoided it because of its reputation.

Based on a March 2009 survey of the Bay Creek Neighborhood by the Community Policing Team



# CPTED Strategy

## Bring In Legitimate Users

During the spring of 2009, illegitimate users of the Conservancy outnumbered legitimate users by a ratio of

**9 to 1**



# Environmental Design

## Invasive Shrubs

- Honeysuckle and Buckthorn are both invasive shrub species in Wisconsin.
- In 2009, thickets covered approximately 85% of the oak woods.
- The Parks Department was only able to clear about a tenth of an acre in 2009, and none in the previous two years.
- Restoration of the woods was a goal of the Parks Department by 2030.



# Environmental Design

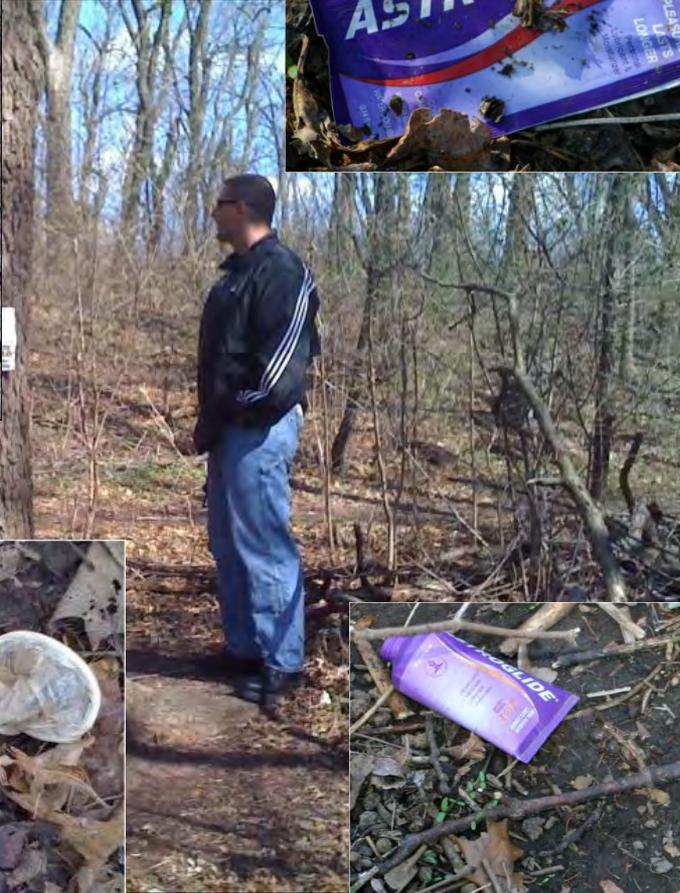
## Traffic and Parking

- **More than 200 distinct vehicles are cruising the roads of the parks daily.**
- **Sixty to eighty non-users of the park, use the parking there for 40 to 50 hours a weeks.**



# Bio-Litter







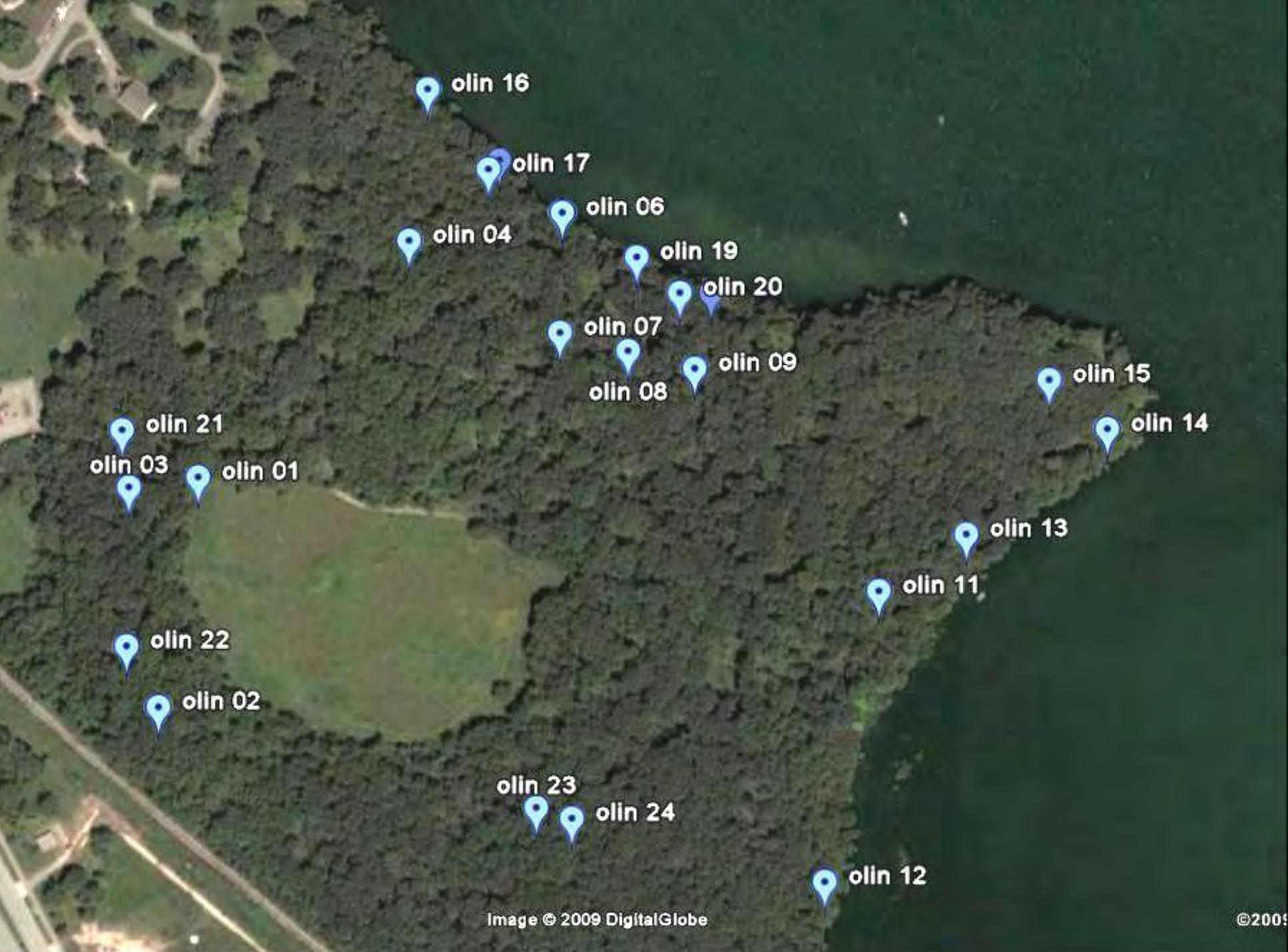
# Sex Nests

## 24

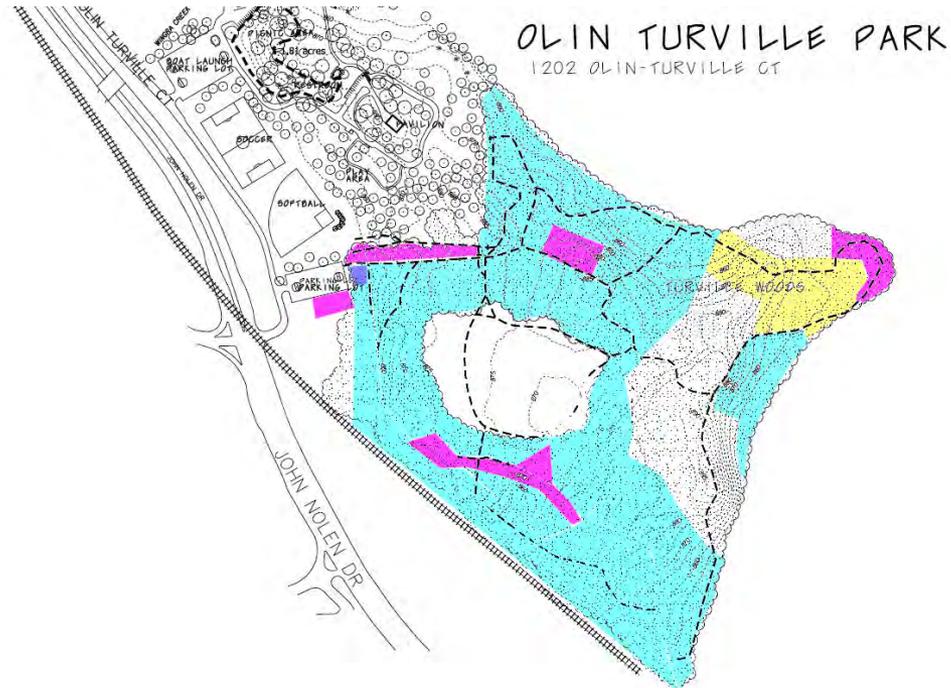
distinct sites with evidence of repeat public sexual activity

- Some are single sites
- Some are complex site
- Most are in dense thickets
- Sites are located throughout the natural area
- GPS mapping enhances understanding of the scope of the problem



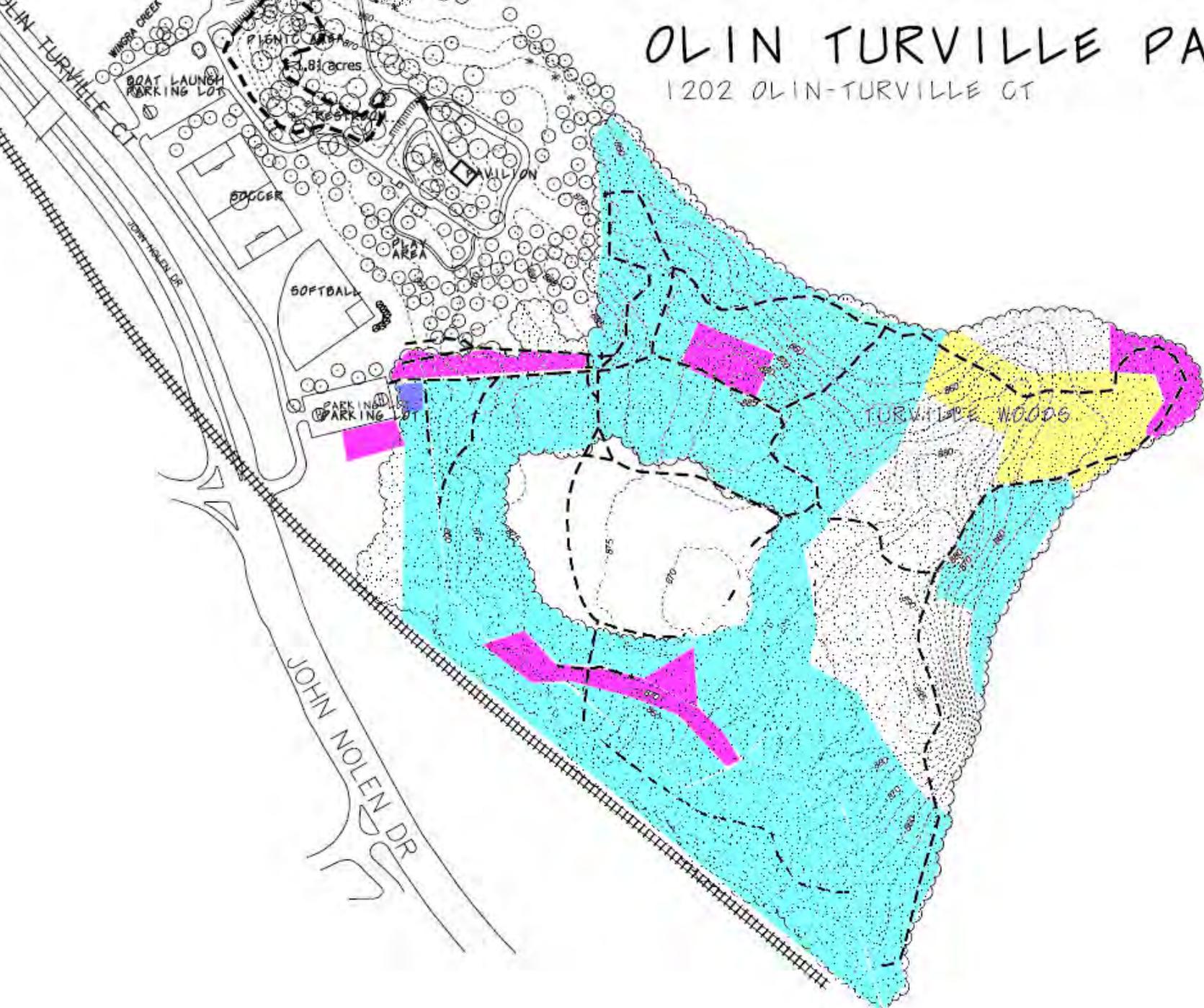


# Motivating The Shrub Clearing Effort



# OLIN TURVILLE PARK

1202 OLIN-TURVILLE CT





Olin Park

Sex Nests - April 2010

Wisconsin  
Professional  
Police Association

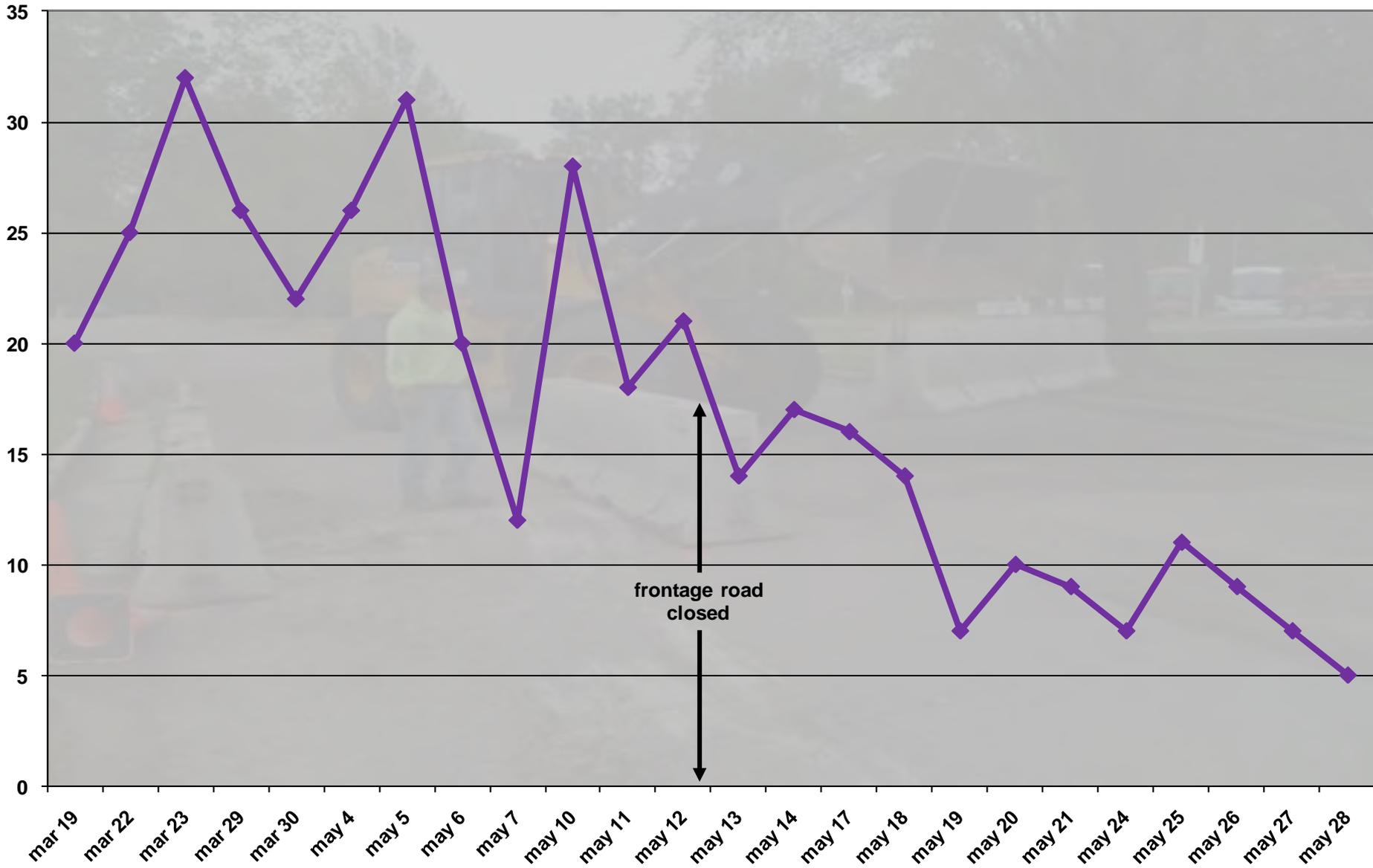
# The Road Closure Experiment





ROAD  
CLOSED

ROAD CLOSED  
→



# Parking Restriction Double Benefit

Our primary goal in ending the practice of commuter parking in Olin was to remove the cover and concealment from the parking lot nearest the Conservancy

Thanks to Alder Bruer, three hour parking went into effect on June 1<sup>st</sup>

In addition to removing the cover, it also sent a strong message that the Parks Department cares about how its parking lots are used.





# April and May 2010

## Sponsored Family Events

- **Sixteen volunteer work parties**
- **Warbler walks**
- **Guided wildflower walks**
- **Star party**
- **Folk music concert**
- **Frogs in the park**





# Berrymans in the Park

Olin Park Pavillion

Friday, May 21

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Peter and Lou Berryman, Madison's favorite folk duo, will perform Friday evening in a free folk music concert to celebrate the restoration of Olin Park and Turville Woods Conservancy to the citizens of Madison.

This concert is part of the Olin Park Project of the Community Policing Team. The event is co-sponsored by the South District CPT of the Madison Police Department, the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association, and the Madison Parks Department.





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at TEN

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WISC-TV3 DTV 3.1 MADISON, WI



# Frogs in *the Park*

*Live frog presentation in Olin Park*

*Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m.*

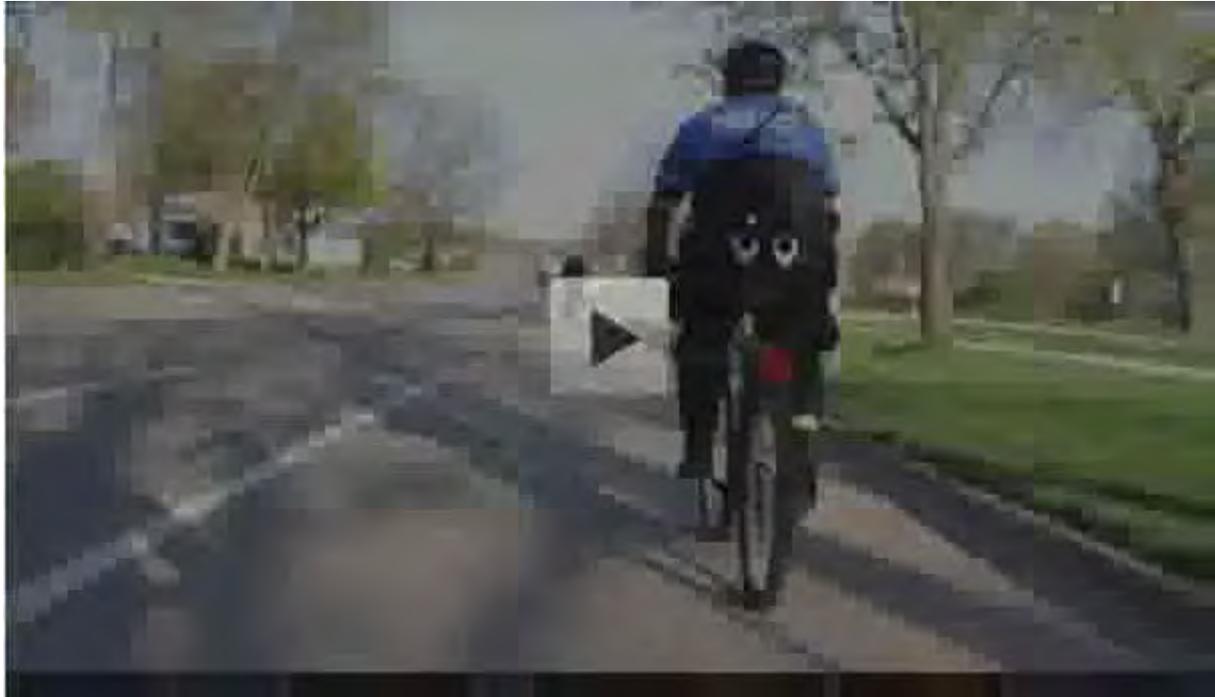
Turville  
Conservancy  
Parking Lot



Randy Korb will bring his frogs to Olin Park for a “hands-on” frog and toad presentation. This presentation is free and open to kids of all ages.

This event is co-sponsored by the South District Community Policing Team, The Bay Creek Neighborhood Association and the Madison Parks Dept.

# Media Campaign To Reverse Reputation



# Three-Pronged Bio-Litter Solution





# Working with Partners to Sustain Change

## Olin is a work in progress:

1. On the agenda for October meeting of the Parks Commission for more design changes
2. Friends of Olin – Turville met for the first time in August
3. More family events are scheduled for September and October



# Proposed Bike Path



# The Olin Park Project

The South District Community Policing Team

**Officer Michele Walker**

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[mwalker@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mwalker@cityofmadison.com)

**Sgt Jim Dexheimer**

(608) 235-8889

[jdexheimer@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jdexheimer@cityofmadison.com)

**With the support of:**

Chief Noble Wray

Captain Joe Balles

Lt Stephanie Bradley Wilson

Parks Superintendent Kevin Briski

The Bay Creek Neighborhood Association

