

AGENDA

of the

CITY OF WILDWOOD'S

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wildwood City Hall – Community Room

16860 Main Street · Wildwood, Missouri

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2016

**WORK SESSION: 21ST Anniversary Wildwood Celebration Discussion
(6:00 p.m.)**

REGULAR MEETING TO FOLLOW (7:00 p.m.)

I. Work Session Item 1

Documents:

[WORK SESSION 1_WILDWOOD HISTORY - ERA - PREHISTORY TO 1776.PDF](#)

II. Work Session Item 2

Documents:

[WORK SESSION 2_CELEBRATE WW 2016 POINTS OF INTEREST.PDF](#)

If you would like to submit a comment regarding an item on this meeting agenda, please visit the [Form Center](#).

Note: The Historic Preservation Commission will consider and act upon these matters listed above and any such others as may be presented at the meeting and determined appropriate for

discussion at that time.

WILDWOOD YESTERDAY AND TODAY - A HISTORY OF ITS CULTURE, PEOPLE, AND PLACES

ERA - Pre-History to 1776

Prepared in Draft Form by the Department of Planning

August 4, 2016

“Remembering Yesterday Today”

The area that is now Wildwood has been a place of gathering/community for much more time than its recent history might indicate, given to its rich natural resource base and abundance of waterways and wildlife. Early nomadic people and the first Native Americans recognized this area as rich and beneficial for their survival and began what would be a long history of settlement, resource use and regeneration, and change. This era of history foretells the future and accentuates the beauty of this area.

An outline of the major events, groups, individuals, and other information is provided below to describe this era of time within this special place of Missouri, in the St. Louis Region, now known as Wildwood.

Pre-Clovis Period (Before 9500 B.C.) - Given its timeframe, much of this period contains stories of how civilizations began, including aliens from space and the survivors from the lost city of Atlantis. However, archaeologists believe the first inhabitants of the area came from Siberia, via a land bridge during the last glacial period, when sea levels are theorized to have dropped as much as 330 feet due to the formation of ice. Evidence of these peoples traversing through the area that is now Wildwood does not exist, but, according to Joe Harl and Robin Machiran, local and trusted archeologists, it may be as simple as the remnants of their respective cultures have not yet been identified for investigation.

Paleoindian Period (9500 - 8000 B.C.) - This period actually has evidence of the first humans in North America. These first humans were situated around the North American continent, including areas in what is now Wildwood. These first inhabitants hunted with wooden spears that were tipped with stone projectiles. One of the verifiable sites of this period is near Faust Park, but none have been discovered yet in Wildwood; however, such a location could have been overlooked. Another famous site of this period is Mastodon State Park, which is located in Jefferson County, Missouri. These locations have common physical characteristics that are typical of these inhabitants, in that they temporarily camped on the bluffs above waterways, such as the Missouri River, and hunted, gathered, and sheltered there.

Dalton Period (8900 - 7900 B.C.) - This period provides an interesting snapshot into the Wildwood Area, in that it finally provides solid evidence of inhabitants within this portion of western St. Louis County. These inhabitants were again not long-term settlers, but still more nomadic, but beginning to stay in a single or multiple locations for more extended periods of time, given the plentiful resources of food, water, and shelter (termed seasonal rounds). As the stays grew in length, the remnants of these inhabitants are now being discovered and studied, but does not include their housing, which was determined to be made of wood. Therefore, these inhabitants were not cave dwellers and likely, any shelters would no longer exist today.

The Dalton Period is also the first where artifacts are found in the Wildwood Area. One of the few identifiable locations of these finds is Babler State Park. The descriptions provided in Joe Harl and Robin Machiran's book state the find was in a rock shelter (an overhang from an exposed rock layer) within the current State Park property, but offers no tangible artifacts of these people and their characteristics. Other sites located in the region indicate they were hunters of small game, including deer, but used all of the area's resources to survive and grow.

These inhabitants also sought this area due to the Burlington Limestone Formation that is the common rock type in much of Wildwood and prevalent in western St. Louis County. This formation is also riddled with Chert, a hard rock, which was used to create tools and weapons. This formation offers many of the scenic roadway cuts along State Route 109 and underlies most of Wildwood. Finding the materials for tools and weapons, water, and bluffs for shelter, these early inhabitants would generally stay at a location, until the resources were depleted and then move on to another similar spot, where these items were once again plentiful.

Early Archaic Period (7900 - 6500 B.C.) - During this period, the seasonal rounds by the first travellers became more entrenched and, where circumstances were most favorable, these encampments became quite large, with the best example of such in the St. Louis Region being the American Bottoms Area of Illinois (just to the east of the City of St. Louis). These encampments are generally located on high ground, but with easy access to nearby waterways and other food sources.

According to reports prepared for this period, no archaeological finds have been determined to exist in Wildwood. This circumstance does not mean these inhabitants were not in this area, but have not yet been verified through artifacts found by a formal dig in Wildwood. Accordingly, inferences can be developed about this period for the Wildwood Area, but not verified.

Middle Archaic Period (6500 - 3500 B.C.) - Climate change dictated the activities of the indigenous people to the Wildwood Area. This time period was one of global warming, which meant the first inhabitants faced new challenges, but also some unexpected opportunities. The warming caused some food sources to be lost and water to become even more important. While here in the Wildwood Area, locations along the Missouri and Meramec Rivers and Wild Horse Creek became hubs of activity, given the diversity of resources and the more usable lands attributed to the receding waters. At least six (6) sites have been documented in the Wildwood Area.

These newly usable lands had once been under water, but were now habitable and fertile for use. This period is the first timeframe that many scholars believe field pumpkins were grown and harvested. Fishing and foraging remain the prime activities of the inhabitants of the Wildwood Area. Given the levels in water had changed, nets were introduced and used for fishing, which produced bountiful amounts of fish and amphibians, leading to parts of these catches being smoked and stored for consumption later. Consumption of nuts, as a primary dietary staple, is also noted during this period. Although some areas suffered during this period of climate change, the Wildwood Area's proximity to rivers, streams, and creeks led to an on-going presence by a growing population of inhabitants.

Late Archaic Period (3500 - 700 B.C.) - This period begins a major shift in how the inhabitants lived and prospered in the Wildwood Area. Driving this change was a documented growth in population that caused shortages of certain food at times. Up to this period, the inhabitants still roamed from place to place, based upon the seasons, to hunt and gather food. Now, in this period, changes that would not be abated began, starting with some of the inhabitants now forming semi-permanent communities. These communities were near resources that were deemed imperative and used to increase food sources and improve productivity. Along with these communities, many innovations, followed that reflected these inhabitants were no longer just surviving in the Wildwood Area, but prospering.

With population growth, resources began to be stretched, which led to new food technologies, such as earthen pits for cooking. Along with new food preparation approaches, communities of different peoples began to form for self-preservation and advancement. These communities began to trade not only essentials, but also now, non-essentials, such as Hematite and Galena, along with Chert. All of these minerals and rocks were found in the Wildwood Area, with the latter being very abundant here. Along with trade, social functions increased in these communities, including group hunts and gatherings of food, and marriages. Near the end of this period, burials and permanent housing is beginning to be part of the community's society and legacy. Also, as this period came to a close, inhabitants were experimenting with agricultural techniques, seeking to grow food, rather than just to gather for each meal and day.

This period is well represented in the Wildwood Area, with at least nine (9) sites identified at this time. Other sites of these early communities are anticipated to be located in the Wildwood Area, two (2) more suspected in Wild Horse Valley. This period represented a new approach to many practices of the early inhabitants of this area and began a time of alteration to the environment that would last for many centuries to come.

Early Woodland Period (700 - 150 B.C.) - As this period dawned, the manufacture and the use of pottery are identified. The formation and use of pottery and vessels appear to have begun in the south, particularly in the area now that is Florida, followed along the Gulf Coast, then up the Mississippi Valley. This pottery indicates many of the practices of the past period were not necessarily abandoned, but supplemented by new technologies. However, in the Wildwood Area, no sites have been determined to exist here during this period, yet remained indicative of the Late Archaic Period practices being retained by the inhabitants here.

Middle Woodland Period (150 B.C. - A.D. 300) - The periods, in terms of their length in years, are now becoming more abbreviated and reflect a change in direction on a scale not known before.

During this period, the use of pottery became more widespread and the vessels themselves became more elaborate and ornate, even when used for daily living activities. Community settlements began to take on a social hierarchy and the leaders of them having great prestige. The artifacts that were discovered from these digs included ornate gems, copper, and other resources, all confirming these facts. This hierarchy went beyond just the individuals in these communities, but between villages themselves. Despite the growing competition between these settlements,

warring and raiding appear to be limited, with diplomacy and trade used to offset growing disparities between people and their villages where they resided.

Trade remained an important part of this growing hierarchy among villages and brought wealth to some, but not all. Many inhabitants continued to subsist by hunting, gathering, and agricultural practices begun in the earlier periods of time, particularly the Late Archaic, and reside in a single location for more and more time. Again, the number of identified sites of this period is found in the Centaur and Monarch Areas of Wildwood, which is indicative of the importance of water for drink, agriculture practices, travel, and trade.

Late Woodland Period (A.D. 300 - 900) - As a period, it is different due to it being defined into two separate stages. These stages are early and late and the distinction is very important. This importance of this distinction is the first part of this period corresponds to a breakdown in many of the advances in terms of community, travel, and trade and, in some instances, stopping altogether. This change corresponded with the “Dark Ages” in Europe. Experts have tried to define what led to this abrupt change in socialization. Some of these experts believe this change related to severe climate modification, widespread famine, and/or disease. Regardless of the cause in Europe, no expert is sure what led to the loss of growth in the Americas, but it is clear it did occur. During the early part of this period, leaders of these communities sought less to be identified by their wealth and possessions, but more for their altruistic behavior.

The inhabitants of these more isolated communities began to shift more to long-term and sustainable agricultural practices versus subsistence types. Popular crops in the Wildwood Area originally were Goosefoot and Knotweed. These plants were native to the area, easy to grow, and the seeds were boiled for the ease of consumption and use for other food products. Along with these plants, May Grass and Little Baby were transported from the south to eastern Missouri. Other plantings included gourds, squash, and oily seed plants. Tobacco was introduced and the first wooden pipes were discovered in digs.

These changes to agricultural practices led, in part, to the decentralization of communities and smaller groupings of inhabitants, given the land could now sustain the food needs year after year. Slash and burn was used to create the fields for plantings during this period. Flooding also replenished the soil with needed nutrients to sustain this new lifestyle.

During the later part of this first stage, the bow and arrow is first noted in finds from digs. Although early inhabitants of this area of Wildwood began to use agricultural practices more and more, fish, mussels, waterfowl, and deer were still dietary staples. The bow and arrow began a new practice in hunting during this period.

In the second stage of this period, the size of communities began to grow again. However, as represented by earlier periods, these communities were more transient again. Construction techniques and the quality of the pottery were minimal. The number of these communities in the Wildwood Area is estimated at seven (7) in total, which is more than many of the previous periods.

This period ends with the communal need being preeminent, with the individual being less important.

Emergent Mississippian Period (A.D. 900 - 1050) - This period and its name remain a subject of debate. The debate focuses on whether the period really begins a new timeframe or is the extended terminus of the Late Woodland Period. This debate reflects the on-going changes in society at that time, as major events, such as weather, food shortages, or violence, seem to shape the outcomes of these major settlements in the St. Louis Area and elsewhere, more so than other forces of socialization. The results of this upheaval seem to take two (2) varying forms over this span of time in terms of individual aspirations, as well as the communities themselves, which included the consumption and promotion of objects and wealth to more altruistic and community deference by leaders of them and their inhabitants. The assumption could be made that in times of fewer events people tended to seek more for themselves and less for the community, whereas, when things became worse, the community arose to serve all peoples' needs.

Despite the debate on the progress of the cultures and peoples forming them, communities did exist in all shapes and sizes during this period. In fact, scholars have noted that some of these communities became more organized and function around what might be termed as a 'town square.' This town square resembled a cross within a circle of houses that is thought to reflect the four (4) quadrants of the compass, the four (4) seasons, and/or the cycles of life. Archaeologists and scholars have theorized this direction also may be the beginning of rituals of a religious nature. During this period, these clusters, i.e. a central meeting point and a circle of houses, also reflected the beginnings of a trend toward family groups residing in proximity to each other over the homogeneity of the group of inhabitants all mixed among each other.

Pottery advances also occurred during this period, with changes to agents used to bind the materials and alterations of vessels to serve many new purposes, all creating more efficient use of foods and other staples. Seed pots and stumpware are commonly referred to within this period, as representative of these improvements to pottery design, function, and appearance. These changes to the pottery used for daily life activities and ceremonies also indicate trade was very popular in this period of time. Vessels forged and formed from known areas of southeastern Missouri appear here in eastern Missouri, along with materials from certain geologic formations found here in eastern Missouri appearing elsewhere in the Mississippi River Valley. Along with trade, ideas were exchanged, including games.

It has been offered by experts that, during this period of time the development and sharing of these goods and ideas was not just a local phenomenon, but throughout the Mississippi River Valley. Also, given the level of commonality between these goods and ideas, this period appears to be a time of stability and no new group of inhabitants coming to the area and introducing new approaches to life. No sites from this period have been discovered in Wildwood.

Mississippian Period (A.D. 1050 -1400) - This period, the last before the advent of European explorers and then immigrant settlers to the area, is dominated here in eastern Missouri by Cahokia Mounds and the communities that served as satellites to it. In this period, scholars argue the level

of predominance Cahokia Mounds held in terms of trade, influence, and role, but none appear to believe it did not have undue influence on all of this area, including the land now part of the City of Wildwood. Other communities of many different sizes are also known to have existed during this period of time. These other communities have been defined by Melvin Fowler as second, third, and even fourth line communities, all having different characteristics and functions.

The second line communities include multi-mound communities in close proximity to the Cahokia Mounds and were generally located where St. Louis and East St. Louis have developed. The third line communities represented villages that had economic and political importance, given their distance from Cahokia Mounds. The fourth line communities have been defined as farmsteads and isolated outposts that formed a satellite network around Cahokia Mounds and provided support to it through trade and manufacturing. Some scholars do not support this theory of community development, given for a number of reasons, while others have argued that Cahokia Mounds did dominate all of the area due to its economic, trade, and agricultural might. Another school of thought believes that, despite its geographical control of the waterways of importance in this area, it did not have the wherewithal to control much territory, but depended on economic significance to bring a better quality of life to isolated villages through its support, particularly during difficult times. A final approach to the understanding of this period can be speculated as a migration of individuals from the Bootheel Area of Missouri changed the Cahokia Mounds Area, which is reflected in modifications to pottery designs, architecture, construction techniques, etc. However, others argue these changes were more a reflection of ideas being shared with the cultural center of the area and incorporated by its leaders into everyday life. This approach to the growth and change in society assumes the alterations that occurred were the culmination of hundreds of years of methodical trial and error.

A major find of this period was discovered in the Chesterfield Valley with the expansion of the levee in this area (northeast of Wildwood). The Dampier Site provided a wealth of information about settlements in this area during this period, including shell beads, whelk shells, ceremonial mask fragments, and others. This site was very similar to Cahokia Mounds, possibly lending support to the Melvin Fowler concept of line communities. Regardless, this period reflects an organization of ideas, governance, and hierarchy that would extend into the next period of time and beyond.

Protohistoric Period (A.D. 1400-1700s) - During this period, another environmental calamity is theorized to have occurred leading to the Mississippian Society ceasing to exist by the early 1400's, which is reflected in the decline of the larger settlements, such as Cahokia Mounds, near St. Louis. Again, theories abound on what might have caused this decline, from a period of high temperatures and little rain to erosion and loss of fertile soils, due to overuse and poor agricultural practices. Other experts argue the competition between the large market centers, like Cahokia Mounds, to newer markets and smaller decentralized centers, based more in the Late Woodland Period model, led to the decline of certain groups during this period. Whatever, the cause or causes leading to this decline in the society of these early inhabitants, the experts agree that further study, including in the Wildwood Area, is needed to better understand and document this precipitous decline that occurred.

The powerful and elite of these tribes during this period could no longer hold together the inhabitants of these large centers of trade and commerce, thus fragmentation began, leading to accelerating declines in trade and travel. In fact, experts theorize that inhabitants retreated to past practices, which included much smaller villages being formed, lasting just a few years before being abandoned, with many of them located in more isolated locations away from waterways of significance. These occupants of these smaller settlements also began to revert to subsistence farming and hunting and gathering. Even advances made in the molding of pottery retreated during this period. In the end, by the beginning of the 1400's, society was once again undergoing a major adjustment and change again.

Archeologists do note that many of the Native American tribes were claiming lands in the area of eastern Missouri and Wildwood, but none ever proceeded with settlements here. The Kickapoos, the Sac and Fox, Osage (related to the Cahokia Mounds inhabitants), and the Illniwek peoples are all referenced with influence in this area or claims, but none of their settlements have been found in eastern Missouri, nor Wildwood. Such a find would be of critical importance to provide a better explanation of why, with abundant water, a wealth of natural resources, and an established network for transportation, trade, and communication, no sign of settlements exist in this part of Missouri for almost three hundred (300) years. In fact, when French Colonial settlers came to the region, they described it as "open territory."

Colonial Period (A.D. 1700s to the Revolutionary War - 1776) - By Jill F. VonGruben, of the Wildwood Historical Society - The history from 1700 to 1776 of the area now known as Wildwood can only be understood by surveying the history of North America from the fifteenth century through the eighteenth century. To put this timespan into perspective, the chronology follows as:

- 1492** Columbus's ships landed in the Caribbean while looking for a new route to Asia for the Spanish Crown.
- 1534** The St. Lawrence River was explored by Jacques Cartier of France. This was the beginning of New France.
- 1585** The Roanoke Island colony, first English settlement in America, was established. By 1590, it had disappeared.
- 1607** James Fort, Virginia, was established.
- 1610** Jamestown, Virginia, was founded by the Virginia Company of London for the Kingdom of England.
- 1699** Jamestown was abandoned after capital of Colony of Virginia was moved to what is now "Williamsburg."
- 1673** Marquette was a Jesuit missionary. His goal was to convert the indigenous peoples. He was skilled at languages and made friends with the tribes during his travels.

Jacques Marquette, SJ, and Louis Joliet, accompanied by five other men in two bark canoes, travelled down the Mississippi River. Marquette and Joliet are considered the first Europeans to explore the Mississippi River and its course. In late June 1673, they reached the mouth of the Missouri River (confluence of Missouri and Mississippi Rivers), which Marquette described as "Muddy River". By July, he and his companions stopped their exploration at the Native American

village of Kappa (in Arkansas) at the mouth of the Arkansas River. Marquette and Joliet, based on conversation with the Quapaw tribe, surmised that the Mississippi River did in fact reach the Gulf of Mexico. They did not continue on to the Gulf of Mexico due to their concern that they would be captured and jailed by the Spanish who held the southern portion of the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. In July 1673, they headed north again.



“Copy of the map published with Marquette’s Journal, 1681.” This map was Marquette’s drawn from his 1673 exploration of the Mississippi River.
(Source: public domain)

There was a difference in philosophy between Spanish and French explorers during this time period. Spain’s goal was to conquer and gain territory and peoples by force and enslavement. France’s goal was to convert indigenous peoples to Catholicism and explore and gain territory through exploration.

The next major explorer was Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle. He was a French adventurer and explorer. His goal was to expand upon Marquette’s exploration of the Mississippi River.

De La Salle and his party of 23 Frenchmen and 31 Native Americans reached the Mississippi River on February 6, 1682. By February 13, 1682, the explorers reached the mouth of the Missouri River and camped for the night on the south bank of the Missouri River at the Mississippi River. In his journal, he noted established villages of “savages,” which were probably of the Osage tribe.

By April 1682, de La Salle’s party reached the Gulf of Mexico by following each of the 3 main branches of the Mississippi at its mouth. He and his party erected a pillar and cross bearing the Arms of France and declared possession of the territory of all the land drained by the Mississippi River and its tributaries. He named the territory, “Louisiana”, in honor of the French King, Louis XIV.

De La Salle surmised the strategic and military importance of the Mississippi River. His goal was to survey the territories surrounding the Mississippi River to allow the establishment of a fort system

to securely hold the territory for France. Unfortunately for France, this system of forts was not fully established.



De La Salle's map of New France
(Source: Public Domain)



French flag of New France 1663-1763
(Source: Public Domain)

At its peak, New France encompassed what is now Canada south to the Gulf of Mexico and from the British Colonies on the Atlantic west to the Rocky Mountains.

One of the important components of the New France economy was fur trading. Fur was in great demand in Europe, and New France was a plentiful source. Trappers wound through the Louisiana Territory to capture and harvest fur pelts. These trappers were transient and followed their crop. They often intermarried with indigenous tribes. Illinois Country (Pays des Illinois) is the area more commonly known as Upper Louisiana, which became the Midwestern United States and was a portion of the range of the fur traders. Illinois Country refers to the Algonquian tribes.



Image of what a temporary overnight camp would be for fur traders. (Source: Frances Anne Hopkins, *Voyageurs at Dawn* (detail) (Public Domain)



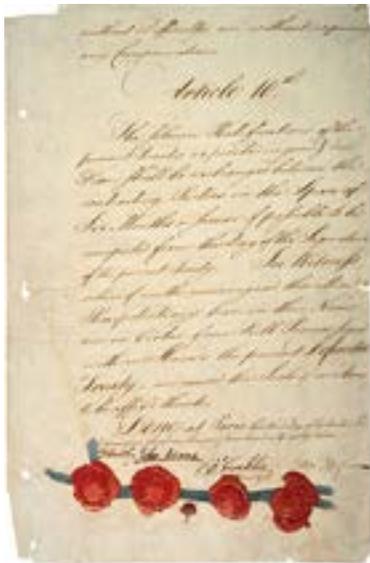
Example of fur trapper's winter cabin
(Source: Public Domain)

During this time period, in Illinois Country, there were very few permanent settlements. Des Peres is thought to be the oldest white settlement in Missouri, founded in 1700 by a group of Kaskaskia Native Americans who camped at the mouth of a river and named the spot in honor of the two French priests who joined them. The French missionaries built a fort, chapel, and lodge, but they only lasted 3 years before moving on. In 1767, the site was resettled by French Canadians and named Carondelet.

In search of silver, the French found lead instead, which was a valuable resource in its use as a key component of ammunition at the time. Two mining villages were established early in the eighteenth century. In 1717, Mine La Motte (seven miles north of current day Fredericktown) was founded. In 1723, La Vieille Mine (Old Mines area north of current day Potosi) was founded by Philippe Francois Renault. In 1735 – 1750 (a range of dates is given since the date is disputed), Ste. Genevieve, Missouri was established and still is a viable town.

In 1754, the French and Indian Wars began in North America, which was between the British and their enemies, the French and Indian tribes, in the area of what would become the United States. The Seven Year's War was the name of the same conflict, which became a worldwide war in 1756. This dual continent war was incredibly expensive to both sides. The wars were brought to an end with the Treaty of Paris in 1763. Britain would gain all lands east of the Mississippi River. Cuba would stay under Spanish control, and the former Spanish territory of Florida would become British. Britain returned the Caribbean Islands to France. With the Treaty of Paris in 1763, France compensated their Spanish ally by giving French Louisiana Territory including the City of New Orleans, to Spain.

Though the Treaty of Paris was dated 1763, actual control of the Louisiana Territory occurred in 1762. It was at this point that the area now encompassed as the State of Missouri changed from French to Spanish governance.



Treaty of Paris, last page
(Source: public domain)

The site for the fur trading post of St. Louis was selected in 1764 by Pierre Laclède, who had received a land grant from Louis IX of France, and his scout, Auguste Chouteau. The construction of the village began in 1765.

It was not until 1769 that French-Canadian fur trader, Louis Blanchette, established the village of The Little Hills. This village would eventually become the city of St. Charles.

John Hildebrand's ancestors emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania. (Note on Surname spelling: throughout records there are two to three different spellings of this name. This article has used the most commonly used.) In 1770, John Hildebrand brought his family down the Ohio River in a flatboat and eventually settled in the area of the Meramec River and Saline Creek a few miles south of the current city of Fenton, Missouri. The Hildebrand family lived there until 1788.



Drawing of flatboat
(Source URL: freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com -- Public Domain)



Stone at La Salle Retreat Center
(Photo Credit: Jill F. VonGruben, Wildwood Historical Society)

A flat stone, with “1774” and other indecipherable markings (perhaps a name) chiseled in it, was found on the grounds of the La Salle Retreat Center in the old Glencoe area of Wildwood. This photo does not show the markings, which are in the lower right-hand corner, but the chiseled numbers can be traced with a finger. Nothing is known about its significance or origin. The stone is still currently located at the Retreat Center.

In the area that we now know as Wildwood, there were transient encampments of the French fur traders, but no permanent villages. This is demonstrated by the artistic representations of French fur traders’ temporary shelters shown above. There were no villages or towns in which written records would be kept. They simply did not exist.

Whether under the governance of France or Spain, allegiance by inhabitants to the Roman Catholic Church in the Louisiana Territory was expected. The Diocese of Louisiana and the Two Floridas was part of the Archdiocese of San Cristobal de la Habana, based in Havana Cuba. It encompassed the geographical area of Cuba, territories bordering the Gulf of Mexico, and the Louisiana Territory. The only mention of St. Louis in the Archives of the Diocese of Louisiana prior to 1776 was the notification for the purpose of the official records of the deaths of a family with New Orleans ties. The notification was made in early 1772 when St. Louis was still a village. It was not until the 1790s more details would be noted about this area in the Louisiana Diocese Archives. The St. Louis Archdiocese would not be established until 1826.

During the United States Revolutionary War, the lands west of the Mississippi that had once been French territory belonged to Spain. But the influential effect of the French governance is apparent in the names that appear in Wildwood today: Bonhomme Creek, Lafayette High School, LaSalle Springs Middle School, the LaSalle Spring and Marquette High School. Wild Horse Creek Road was originally called *Riviere Cheval Sauvage*.

Just the tip of Wildwood's rich and varied history has been examined for this piece covering the period prior to the Revolutionary War. After the Revolutionary War, more European settlers came to this area and built churches, villages, and towns. And with that increase in settled population, came an increase in written records, physical artifacts, and details of people's lives. Those stories comprise the next chapter in the history of Wildwood.

WILDWOOD POINTS OF INTEREST – 2016

[A continuation from the 14 Points of Interest identified in 2015]

15. AL FOSTER MEMORIAL TRAIL

225 Grand Avenue, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-0440

www.cityofwildwood.com

This 2.5 mile trail was a joint effort between the City of Wildwood, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation in 2003. Just south of Glencoe City Park, this chat-surfaced trail runs along the banks of the Meramec River, eastward to Sherman Beach. Trail connections can be made to Hamilton-Carr Greenway directly north of the soon-to-be-improved, 1-acre Al Foster Memorial Trailhead and parking area, Bluff View Trail at *mile marker 0.5*, Rock Hollow Trail at *mile marker 1*, and Castlewood State Park via a single-track natural trail. A one-half-mile western extension, including a 194-foot pedestrian bridge over Hamilton-Carr Creek, was completed in 2011 through a partnership between Great Rivers Greenway and the City of Wildwood. Eventually, this trail will extend further south to Route 66 State Park! *Source: Wildwood website*

16. ANNIVERSARY PARK

16511 Clayton Road, Wildwood, MO 63011, #: (636) 458-0440

www.cityofwildwood.com

This 13-acre property is largely consumed by floodplain of Caulk's Creek, which meanders through the majority of it. Completed in 2006, this 1-acre neighborhood park provides a playground, large pavilion, improved restrooms, a drinking fountain, and picnic tables. Nestled in the junction of three (3) City Council Wards, it serves as a premier destination for area families and is bustling with children playing all times of the day! *Source: Wildwood website*

17. BETHEL ROCK CHURCH AND BETHEL CHURCH ~ on Route 66!

17500 Manchester Road, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-2255

<http://bethelunitedmethodist.org>

"Bethel" means House of God in Hebrew. In 1858, the original Rock Bethel Church was established on Wild Horse Creek Road. In March 1873, a fourteen (14) acre tract of land was purchased for a new church and cemetery on Manchester Road. In April 1875, the original, surviving church was dedicated. Bethel United Methodist Church has been, and remains, one of the centers of community in the City of Wildwood. *Source: Bethel Church website*

18. BLUFF VIEW PARK

1900 Old State Road, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-0440

www.cityofwildwood.com

This property was originally owned by Harold Donnelly, who donated it to St. Louis County, per a land-exchange agreement in 1999. Since 2014, it has been leased to the City of Wildwood and is to be developed to serve the region's extensive outdoor community. A 2.5 mile single-track natural trail is planned that will switchback across 100 acres, then connect via another trail to the 245-acre Rock Hollow Area, also leased to the City, creating an overall loop of more than eleven (11) miles of fun! *Source: Wildwood website*

19. GLENCOE CITY PARK

505 Washington Avenue, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-0440

www.cityofwildwood.com

This park came about from a series of land acquisitions consisting of thirty-six (36) properties over the course of a decade, mainly due to frequent flooding of the Meramec River. These properties, plus the network of alleys and rights-of-way owned by the City, create its linear configuration encompassing an area of more than fifteen (15) acres. A large playground, with parking lot, a shade structure, picnic tables, restroom facilities, and beautiful landscaping, fencing, and stone piers, were installed in 2005 on a portion of the site. The Al Foster Memorial Trailhead is nestled midway between the park to the north and the river's frontage to the south. *Source: Wildwood website*

20. MARIANIST RETREAT CENTER

4000 Highway 109, Wildwood, MO 63025, #: (636) 938-5390

<http://mretreat.org>

This 133-acre property, located just south of the Old State Road/Highway 109 junction, was owned by the Alfred Carr Family from 1891 until 1943. The original home, known as MaryCliff, was built in 1905. It was sold to a Benevolent Society, which then sold it to the Society of Mary Province of St. Louis in 1950. Priests and brothers of the Marianist Order have served the spiritual and educational needs of over 75,000 students and adults since 1967. *Source: Marianist Retreat website*

21. OLD POND SCHOOL & PARK ~ on Route 66!

17123 Manchester Road, Wildwood, MO 63040, #: (636) 458-0440

www.cityofwildwood.com

Listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*, Old Pond School served the area's elementary students from 1914 to 1951. This 1-acre property was deeded to the City of Wildwood by Lorraine Conreaux, a descendent of the original owners, the Dreinhofer Family. It is a classic one-room schoolhouse, which was authentically restored beginning in 2002 and now serves as a community meeting place and neighborhood park. *Source: Wildwood website*

22. POND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1725 Pond Road, Wildwood, MO 63038, #: (636) 458-9627

<http://pondathletic.com>

Incorporated in 1963, Pond Athletic Association serves over 2,000 youths each year, training them in the finer points of baseball, softball, and sportsmanship. This all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization has seven (7) well-maintained playing fields located upon twenty (20) acres, which serve enthusiasts from the entire region. *Source: Pond Athletic Association website*

23. ROCK HOLLOW TRAIL

777 Ridge Road, Wildwood, MO 63021, #: (636) 458-0440

www.cityofwildwood.com

The Rock Hollow Area encompasses twenty (20) properties, 275 acres, and is managed through a partnership between the City of Wildwood, the State of Missouri, the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Great Rivers Greenway District. Beginning at its trailhead, shared with Ridge Meadow Elementary School, a 2.3-mile asphalt trail follows the former Lawler Ford Road, also known to locals as *Zombie Road*. The trail winds from the ridgeline to the valley, having over 150 feet in relief, and featuring thirteen (13) bridges! *Source: Wildwood website*

24. WILDWOOD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

16860 Main Street, Wildwood, MO 63040, #: (636) 458-0440

<http://www.cityofwildwood.com>

The third building to house City Hall, and the first to include the Wildwood Police Precinct, was built in 2013. It is the second building in Wildwood to receive LEED Certification, being awarded the Gold Level in *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*. This building is home to the Department of Planning and Parks, the Department of Public Works, the Municipal Court, and Administration, Human Resources, and IT support on the upper level, accessible from the south parking lot; while the Police Department and public meeting rooms are located on the first floor, adjacent to Main Street. In cooperation with the St. Louis Community College – Wildwood Campus, student art is on display in the Community Room of this building. *Source: Department of Planning & Parks; Wildwood website*

25. WILDWOOD'S ORIGINAL CITY HALL - IMOGENE'S TEA ROOM ~ on Route 66!

16962 Manchester Road, Wildwood, MO 63040, #: (636) 273-6111

<http://imogenes.net>

This circa-1879 building was built by Frederick Retker and was the only general store in the area for many years. Later, it housed the telephone exchange and, in 1921, under Elmer Funk's ownership, it resumed its role as a general store. The store and picnic grove to the east were important meeting places in the community for many years. It was renovated in 1980 for private offices then became Wildwood's first City Hall in 1995. A major expansion was completed in 2000, doubling the overall building's original size. After the City of Wildwood moved to a larger facility in 2010, the property was purchased by Wildwood resident Clarissa Wheeler and became Imogene's Tea Room. *Source: "Wildwood" by Jo Beck, 2009*