

Indigenous Lands Acknowledgement

The Lake Winnebago waterways and watershed, and the land that is now known as Wisconsin, are the ancestral territories of Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, Oneida, Stockbridge Munsee, and Brothertown. Tribes in Wisconsin have historic and contemporary connections to, and responsibilities for, Lake Winnebago and her related waters. This Wild Rice Revitalization Project honors relationships, leverages Tribal Traditions and local knowledge, and promotes responsibility for water and wild rice stewardship by Tribes and all watershed citizens.



Above: Historic and Current territories of Indigenous Groups in Wisconsin⁵

About the Project

Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin's largest inland lake, connects major rivers to Lake Michigan. Historically this watershed supports diverse wetlands, wildlife and fisheries. The waterways and connecting lakes have been altered by dams and other development. Wild rice persists and continues to offer habitat for fish, wildlife and waterfowl. The InterTribal Lake Winnebago Connectivity Project convenes Tribes, InterTribal, state and federal agencies, non-profits, fishing clubs, and universities in partnership for sustaining fisheries, traditions, and healthy food and water for watershed communities.

In winter and spring of 2022, Brothertown and Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies undergraduates worked together on projects for research, community education, and policy. The goal of the projects is to Integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge & western science through community engagement.

Contact Information

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Mayom ~Manoomin ~Wild Rice and Wisconsin Tribes



Read about the cultural and spiritual connections of Mayom and Wisconsin Tribes

Cultural Relationships with Mayom~Wild Rice

Wąqkšik sji rusto (Ho-Chunk)

Harvesting Wild Rice (English)



- Mayom is an important food source, a relative, an offering, and a symbol of identity and tradition for many Tribes in Wisconsin and throughout the western Great Lakes
- Wąqkšik sji rusto is a spiritual process of expressing gratitude, honoring rice, and harvesting food for families and communities.¹

Mayom (Mohegan) ~Wąqkšik sji (Ho-Chunk)
~ Manoomin (Ojibwe) ~ Mnomen
(Potawatomi)~ Wild Rice (English) ~Zizania
Species (Scientific)

Hoogisik (Ho-Chunk)

Fishing (English)

- Fish are an essential food source for many Wisconsin Tribes.
- The Tribes and Nations in Wisconsin use a wide variety of fishing methods, including spear fishing, netting, hooks and line, and fish traps.²



Namaw
(Menominee)
~Namé (Ojibwe
and Potawatomi)
~Sturgeon
(English)



Ogáa (Ojibwe)
~Oge (Potawatomi)
~Walleye (English)



Qiqiku (Mohegan) ~ Zhiishiib (Ojibwe)
~Shishibe (Potawatomi) ~Duck (English)

Wążooni (Ho-Chunk)

Hunting Waterfowl (English)

- Spring hunting of waterfowl provides essential nutrients for people at the end of winter season.
- “The first grain of the season had been offered for a blessing from the Great Spirit. The time had come to partake of the gift. Boiled with venison or with ducks or rice hens, it was nourishing and delicious.”

- Lolita Taylor⁵



Ajijaak (Ojibwe)~
Jeja (Potawatomi)~
Crane (English)



Wazhashk (Ojibwe)~
Wicawak (Ho Chunk)
~Shesko (Potawatomi)
~Muskrat (English)

Ojibwa Treaty Rights for Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering

- The Ojibwa signed three land cession Treaties with the United States government each in 1837, 1842, and 1854.
- When Ojibwa ceded land, they **reserved** their rights to hunt, fish, and gather off-reservation in the ceded territories.
- The Ojibwa Treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather off-reservation were largely ignored by the State of Wisconsin until the Voigt case (1983) clearly affirmed their rights.
- The Ojibwa/Chippewa in Wisconsin operate fish hatcheries, and seasonally stock the rivers and lakes in Wisconsin, contributing much more than Tribal members harvest.⁴

Resources

Thank you to the Stockbridge-munsee, Ho-chunk, GLIFWIC, and Potawatomi for sharing the knowledge of language.

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3. Vogt, D., David, P., Chapman, E., Graveen J., LaBine, R., Schuldt, N., Ravindran, E., Schmidt, K., Johnston, E., Stirratt, H., Krumwiede, B., Peroff, D., Camacho, J., Dance, S., Washburn, E., Erickson, D. (2020). Lake Superior Manoomin cultural and ecosystem characterization study. *Great Lakes Wild Rice Initiative*. 101.
4. Ojibwe treaty rights. Milwaukee Public Museum. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.mpm.edu/content/wirp/ICW-110>
5. Taylor, Lolita. VTAE District. Ojibwa Nation. Ojibwa Opputuniy Conference. *Ojibwa the Wild Rice People*. New Richmond: Wisconsin Indian Teacher Corps, 1973.
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