

We talked to Mackenzie Mindel, the representative of Mayo's district, about her hopes for the future of the area, and about indigenous representation. Many of the problems in La Crosse — white wealth accumulation, lower retention rate, lower school enrollment — stem from a lack of diverse and affordable housing. She stressed the importance of establishing these. When asked about diversity in La Crosse, she said she aims for inclusivity and that the council aims to diversify investors in the city. We asked about the possibility of giving land back to indigenous inhabitants, and she responded that the city may have something in store.

employees, which creates a problem: during the day, they are entirely full, but at night, entirely empty.

"In 1837, federal Indian agent Lawrence Taliaferro convinced U.S. officials that the Dakotas still use the area and helped to secure favorable treatment for the tribe in the land cession. Many Dakota moved to the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River, where Dakotas still live on the Prairie Island Reservation. The case of the Dakota was the only successful removal of a tribe from Wisconsin."⁴

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever except for the use of brief quotations in a book review.

Printed in the United States of America

Opel Publishing
140 10th Street South
La Crosse, WI 54601
opel.pub

Here's what the guild says about the Ho-Chunk treaty of 1837:

In summary, the land that La Crosse sits on today was, for thousands of years, a communal border village/lacrosse field of the Ho-Chunk and the Dakota until 1837, when the Dakota sold the land to the United States. Soon after, both tribes faced deadly removals.

In 1900, however, the parking lot was still a group of houses, housing mostly working class individuals--some renting and some owning, a few European immigrants, and later on, young female nurses.⁹ By 1992, most of these houses had been demolished and made into parking spaces. It wasn't until 2010 that the last house was removed and until 2020 that the lot was completed.¹⁰



Unlike La Crosse County, counties such as Jackson, Monroe, Wood, Sauk, and Shawano all host large Ho-Chunk developments, including seven neighborhoods and multiple apartment complexes throughout the state.¹⁴ One of the Nation's most innovative new developments, **Cloud Village** in Baraboo, was just recently completed.¹⁵ This 65,000-square-foot development delivers 40 apartment units in a mix of two- and three-bedroom layouts, featuring both underground and surface parking, basketball courts, and community amenities. Designed by Dimension IV Madison Design Group, **Cloud Village** incorporates sustainable features such as high-efficiency appliances, electric vehicle charging stations, and advanced storm water management. The project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, thanks to the collaboration of Greenfire Management Services, the City of Baraboo, Colin Price,¹⁶ and the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Infrastructure Grants¹⁷: In Crawford County, for example, tribal partnership helped fund a critical bridge replacement. By designating the route as a “reservation access road,” the county secured \$440,000 in federal funds for the project, in 2014. Crawford County Board Chairman Pete Flesch noted, “Financial assistance from the Ho-Chunk Nation has been essential in funding the work of Crawford County.”

HOSTING Ho-Chunk developments actively creates a more prosperous community, but for years, La Crosse has sabotaged efforts to do so. Instead of having useless parking lots, we could have affordable housing and community structure.

References can be found online at ope.pub/wishes

A free publication by **ope!** publishing



10th St. and Division St.

*Dreamt by
Oliver Cleveland & Ella Tarwid*

