

# Parker Dam Storyline

## Instructions

You are about to take an assessment on perspective-taking. You will be answering a series of open-ended questions about a hypothetical, but realistic situation described in a series of documents. We ask that you *imagine yourself* as the person referenced when answering these questions. You should base your responses only on the information provided in these documents.

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## Parker Dam: Removal or Repair?

There is a debate going on among the citizens and representatives of the city of Madison (population 86,423) regarding Parker Dam and Reservoir (also called Parker Lake). Over the past two years, the Army Corps of Engineers, in collaboration with Pacific Independent Scientific Group, has conducted an assessment of Parker Dam, which is located within the city of Madison. They recently released their summary report findings. The report revealed that the dam is not only in need of a significant amount of repair work, but also that the indigenous salmon and trout species that reside in Parker River are in danger of extinction as a result of the dam. To decide whether the dam should be repaired or removed, the Madison City Council has created a special taskforce among its members, Madison Mayor Rousseau, and three Madison residents - Betty Johnson, Robert Lightfoot, and Jason McSmithson. These residents were selected because they reflect the diversity of the citizens of Madison.

The *Paddington Star*, the newspaper serving the major city 100 miles north of Madison as well as the citizens of Madison, has seized the Army Corps of Engineers report as an opportunity to focus on the human-interest aspect of the debate - the Native American Pehonkee community and the potential restoration of their natural environment and livelihood. Environmental groups also support the removal of the dam. However, there is a moderately-sized African American community located along the banks of the reservoir whose livelihood is garnered from the recreational activities associated with the reservoir. Moreover, many residents would see the values of their homes along the lakeshore plummet without the picturesque Parker Reservoir as a view.

Mayor Rousseau is meeting with the three taskforce residents this afternoon to discuss the dam, reservoir, and river issues. To familiarize herself with Mr. Lightfoot, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. McSmithson -- in particular where they may stand with respect to the dam -- Mayor Rousseau had her staff conduct an internet search on each of them. The resulting findings are provided to you (documents B-F). Prior to this meeting, the City Council provided the three residents with the Army Corps of Engineers Report, which you also have (document A). **Please review these documents. They include a range of information sources. Once you have reviewed documents A-F, answer the following questions (you may refer to the documents at any time):**

### Question 1

**Imagine yourself as Robert Lightfoot.** You show up to the meeting between the mayor, Betty Johnson, yourself, and Jason McSmithson a few minutes early. After some introductory talk, Mayor Rousseau asks you whether you would like to see the dam stay or be removed. You answer, saying, "You know, I've thought about this, and I would like to see it removed." Mayor Rousseau responds by asking you the following questions:

- "Robert, what *feelings* and *evidence* led you to this decision and why?
- Was your decision an easy one? Why or why not?"

1) Please respond to her questions. Be sure to use relevant information provided in any one (or more) of documents A-F to support your response. 2) You may have found information within the documents (including the introduction) that's inconsistent with your response to Question 1. Why did you choose to not include this information?

## Question 2

Now imagine yourself as Jason. When you arrive at the meeting, the mayor asks,

- “Jason, are you for or against the removal of the dam?
- What *feelings* and *evidence* led you to this decision and why?

1) Please respond to her questions. Be sure to use relevant information provided in any one (or more) of documents A-F to support your response. 2) You may have found information within the documents (including the introduction) that’s inconsistent with your response to Question 1. Why did you choose to not include this information?

## Question 3

During the meeting Mayor Rousseau says the following: "Betty, I want this dam down. I know the Army Corps of Engineers Report talks about sanctions on fishing for a number of years. I will guarantee that your shop will be the only business to sell fishing license exemptions for this sanction. Betty, you won't lose any customers. You'll be the only store around that will sell the license."

Imagine yourself as Betty in answering the following question:

- Betty, how do you respond to this statement and why?

1) Please respond to the question. Be sure to use relevant information provided in any one (or more) of documents A-F to support your response. 2) You may have found information within the documents (including the introduction) that’s inconsistent with your response to Question 1. Why did you choose to not include this information?

## Question 4

In the course of the meeting Betty says, "I will do anything to keep my community intact. Most of my neighbors can barely survive. No one is thinkin’ about us when it comes to the dam. I almost think it’s discrimination."

A. Imagine yourself as Robert. Robert, how do you respond to this statement?

1) Please respond to the question. Be sure to use relevant information provided in any one (or more) of documents A-F to support your response. 2) You may have found information within the documents (including the introduction) that’s inconsistent with your response to Question 1. Why did you choose to not include this information?

B. Now imagine yourself as Jason. Jason, how do you respond to Betty’s statement?

1) Please respond to the question. Be sure to use relevant information provided in any one (or more) of documents A-F to support your response. 2) You may have found information within the documents (including the introduction) that’s inconsistent with your response to Question 1. Why did you choose to not include this information?

## Question 5

Based on the information provided to you, what course of action would *you* take in regard to the Parker Dam, Reservoir, and River? Why?



**U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers**  
*Paddington District*



**Pacific Independent  
Scientific Group**

## Executive Summary

The Corps of Engineers, Paddington District, with the assistance of the Pacific Independent Scientific Group (PISG), present the findings of a Major Rehabilitation Report that evaluated alternatives to address the aging Parker Dam and Reservoir. The alternatives are either to: a) to repair and maintain the dam, with an estimated cost of \$24.8 million (includes 10 years of predicted maintenance) or b) undertake a staged removal of the dam to restore the natural habitat (five years of removal and development), with an estimated cost of \$27.2 million. Backgrounds and findings are summarized below.

### Brief Historical Overview

Parker Dam was completed in 1935 in an effort to provide the city of Madison and its surrounding areas a source of water and electrical power. The Native American population scattered along Parker River was relocated in 1932 to Pehonkee Reservation along the lower portion of Parker River, just below the slated location of the dam. In 1982, state bills AP.7709 and AP.7710 were approved and the city of Madison provided funding to connect its citizens to the state power and water grids, respectively. Both projects were completed in 1985, and the Madison Dam Hydroelectric Power and Water System was retired. Since 1985, Parker Lake has been enjoyed for recreational (fishing, swimming, boating) purposes only.

### Scope of the Major Rehabilitation Project

Over the last two years, the Army Corps of Engineers and PISG have been assessing the structural implications and environmental impact of Parker Dam and its related reservoir. The Pacific Independent Scientific Group was invited by the Army Corps of Engineers to participate in this assessment as part of the Corp's increased focus in understanding the implications structural approaches to water and power supply have had on Native American populations and the indigenous fish and wildlife associated with natural river ecosystems. A summary of structural and environmental findings is outlined below, followed by the potential long-term impact of dam removal.

### Structural findings:

Currently, the dam is just below condition standards for safety (as described in State Administration Code Chapter SR 423). To bring the dam up to appropriate safety standards, the following issues must be addressed:

- An improperly installed and maintained stilling basin must be removed and reconstructed. See appendix A1 for details (not provided).
- Moderate to severe embankment instability on eastern edge of the reservoir in an arc-shaped pattern related to poor soil compaction must be repaired.
- Four structural cracks (greater than 0.25 inch in width) that span between three feet and nine feet in length centered in the southeast corner of the dam. See appendix 100.B summary of construction details for repair (not provided).

In addition, inspection found that the following issues will need to be addressed over the next five to ten years:

- Hairline cracks in map-like formation across the center of the dam and along both spillways. Efflorescence (a white, crystallized substance formed by water seeping through the pores or thin cracks in the concrete) was present in all the above-mentioned areas.

- Sediment buildup in the reservoir will necessitate the mechanical removal of the material by dredging and slurring to either a terrestrial or saltwater site.

**Environmental impact of Parker Dam and Reservoir on the surrounding ecosystem:**

- Parker Dam blocks the migration of eight species of salmon and trout. As a result, each of the species' populations has dropped significantly. Since 1962, when Parker River fish populations were first recorded, the trout and salmon population numbers ranged from 350,000 to 450,000. Today, it is estimated that there are less than 14,000.
- Almost 8 million cubic yards of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and cobbles have accumulated behind the dam, an area that is critical for fish spawning and general habitat.
- Water temperatures have increased significantly, both within Parker Lake/Reservoir and downstream, resulting in a considerable reduction of oxygen in the water (stratification) due to massive algae and wet meadow grass growth.
- 22 types of birds and mammals, including the endangered bald eagle, have lost a major food supply with the severe shortage of salmon and trout.

*Predicted results upon dam removal:*

- Over a five-year period, 342 acres of terrestrial habitat, including riparian and wetland acreage, would be restored to support wildlife with the removal of the dam and related reservoir.
- Chances for restoring seven of the eight runs of fish are rated as either "good" or "excellent" if Parker Dam is removed.
- If the dam was removed and upstream sediment flowed into the middle and lower river, the riverbed itself might rise to pre-dam levels, which has been estimated to be on the order of 1 to 5 feet above the present level. A raised riverbed would raise the water level also, and localized flooding could occur more frequently. However, there currently are no major structures (residences, commercial buildings) that would be severely impacted by this.
- Fishing restrictions would be necessary for some time (approximately three to five years) so that the native species are provided the opportunity to populate and grow. Pehonkee tribal members will be exempt.
- In five to seven years, tourists (and the supporting recreational tourism business community) will be able to enjoy fishing, sailing, river-rafting, and swimming in the river; however, until that time, businesses reliant on water tourism will be negatively affected.
- Approximately 850 residences that stretch along four miles of lakefront would be negatively impacted with the loss of the lake.
- Dam removal would return the cultural and economic focus of the Pehonkee tribe, as well as uphold the federal trust responsibility to affected Indian tribes.

## Madison Tribe Hurt by Dam Needs a New Beginning

Scoop McCleary Paddington Star Staff Writer

Monday, December 4, 2006

Little more than 100 years ago, the landscape surrounding Parker Lake and River was much different than what we see today. Low-lying longhouses were scattered up and down the rivers edge. Bald eagles scavenged the river for jumping salmon. Brown bears meandered down to the river to feast on the dying Coho. Wild berries and roots were in abundance. This is what the Pehonkee Native American Tribe recount in their oral histories.

Anthropologist Nancy Werner, who has studied the Pehonkee for a number of years, relates how they were experts in cultivating a systematic food supply. "The Pehonkee were one of the few tribes in the area to develop a year-long system to supply their population with salmon and trout. They constructed fishponds off of the river and used them as hatcheries. This led to a very stable economic environment for the tribal peoples." Pehonkee Senior Council Member Robert Lightfoot adds, "We were a very rich tribe compared to others in the area because of our fishpond construction. You could say we innovated to stay ahead!"

As more Euro-American families arrived looking for productive land, the settlers asked Congress to authorize a territorial government. During the treaty session with the territorial governor in 1875, the Pehonkee agreed to sign away most of their land rights, with the exception of a twelve-acre parcel along the river, where the tribe's fish hatcheries and spiritual center were located. However, in 1932, the Pehonkee were relocated from those lands to their current location, approximately 22 miles inland from the Parker River so that the Parker Dam and Reservoir could be constructed.

As a result, the Pehonkee lost all means of economic independence. Says Mr. Lightfoot, "My ancestors could no longer maintain and sell their salmon or trout, they couldn't access the foliage used to make their beautiful baskets, nor could they hunt for elk which naturally resided closer to the river." The tribe became fully reliant on government funds for existence. Robert Lightfoot remembers, "My father was part of this transition period, and he used to talk about it all the time. The tribe was frustrated. They didn't want to be reliant on the government. They had developed a highly efficient system with the fish hatcheries that provided a reliable source of income." Today, the tribe is slowly dying away. "Many of the young people leave the reservation - they feel it's a road to nowhere. And, frankly, I encourage them to do so, even if many of the elders don't agree with me," says Lightfoot. "It's their only chance for any kind of success." When asked about the loss of tribal culture and history with the exodus of young people from the reservation, he says, "Yes, it's a problem, and it needs to be fixed. We need to find a way to make the reservation a positive place for the kids. Get rid of the drugs; create a viable source of income and jobs for the people."

Lightfoot recounts his own life as an example, "I'm in my mid-fifties and have two wonderful children, both of whom are in college, and an incredible wife who I met on the reservation. We have a lovely home right on Parker Lake. We go sailing on the lake every weekend. I'm a VP at a hi-technology company that specializes in innovation. My childhood friends from the

reservation? Two are in jail. One friend has three children, all of whom have had some trouble with the law or drugs before the age of 16. Most of my friends didn't even finish high school, so finding jobs is practically impossible. I'm at the reservation almost every day of the week, not only trying to find ways to make things better, but also sharing the Pehonkee history with my children. I reach out to other people in the Madison community, hoping to collaborate on ways to make it better. I talk with the Governor, the state senate, everyone. But until something more happens, until there is a real source of economic independence, I will continue to encourage the young people to leave, to get away, and to come back only as I have done."

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "Madison Underground: Parker Dam Removal - Thoughts?? - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar contains the URL "http://madisonundgrnd.blogspot.com/2008/10/parker-dam-removal-thoughts.html". The page content includes a header for "Madison Underground" with navigation links like "SEARCH BLOG", "FLAG BLOG", and "Next Blog». The main post is dated "WEDNESDAY" and titled "Parker Dam Removal - Thoughts?". The text of the post begins with "Hey Everyone -" and discusses the debate about the Parker Dam, mentioning the desire to remove it and return the Parker River to its original state. It also mentions an insider working for the city and names Robert Lightfoot, Betty Johnson, and Jason McSmithson. The post is attributed to "MADISON UNDERGROUND AT 9:33 AM". A "COMMENTS" section shows a comment from "Sarah said...". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications, and the system tray with the time "11:20 AM".

Madison Underground: Parker Dam Removal - Thoughts?? - Windows Internet Explorer

http://madisonundgrnd.blogspot.com/2008/10/parker-dam-removal-thoughts.html

Madison Underground: Parker Dam Removal - Thought...

Sarah said...

I'm a personal friend of Robert's. His wife and I volunteer together and our kids grew up together. I haven't talked to Robert about the dam and how he feels about it, but I can tell you that he's one of the nicest, most thoughtful people I know.

October 15, 2008

Frank said...

I was in the Johnson Bait and Tackle shop last year, and Betty Johnson was just about the angriest black woman I've ever seen. She was chewing out a customer about god only knows what. I don't understand what the county board was thinking electing her to this Madison dam decision thing. All she cares about is making a buck for her store.

October 15, 2008

Janet said...

My kids go to school with Jason and Lilly McSmithson's kids. I wouldn't say we know them well, but we have spent time together (preschool, PTA meetings, school outings, etc). My husband knows him better – the two of them meet once a week to converse in Spanish (my husband grew up in South America). I guess he wants to learn to speak it because many of his workers have a difficult time with English. My husband says he's very interested in South American culture. I can't really say what side Jason will come out on with this issue. I know he has a lot of friends from high school that work for the dam authority. Either way, he's a real easy-going, laid-back guy. Also really smart. Knows everything about everything. It can get a little old :)

October 15, 2008

maddygal22 said...

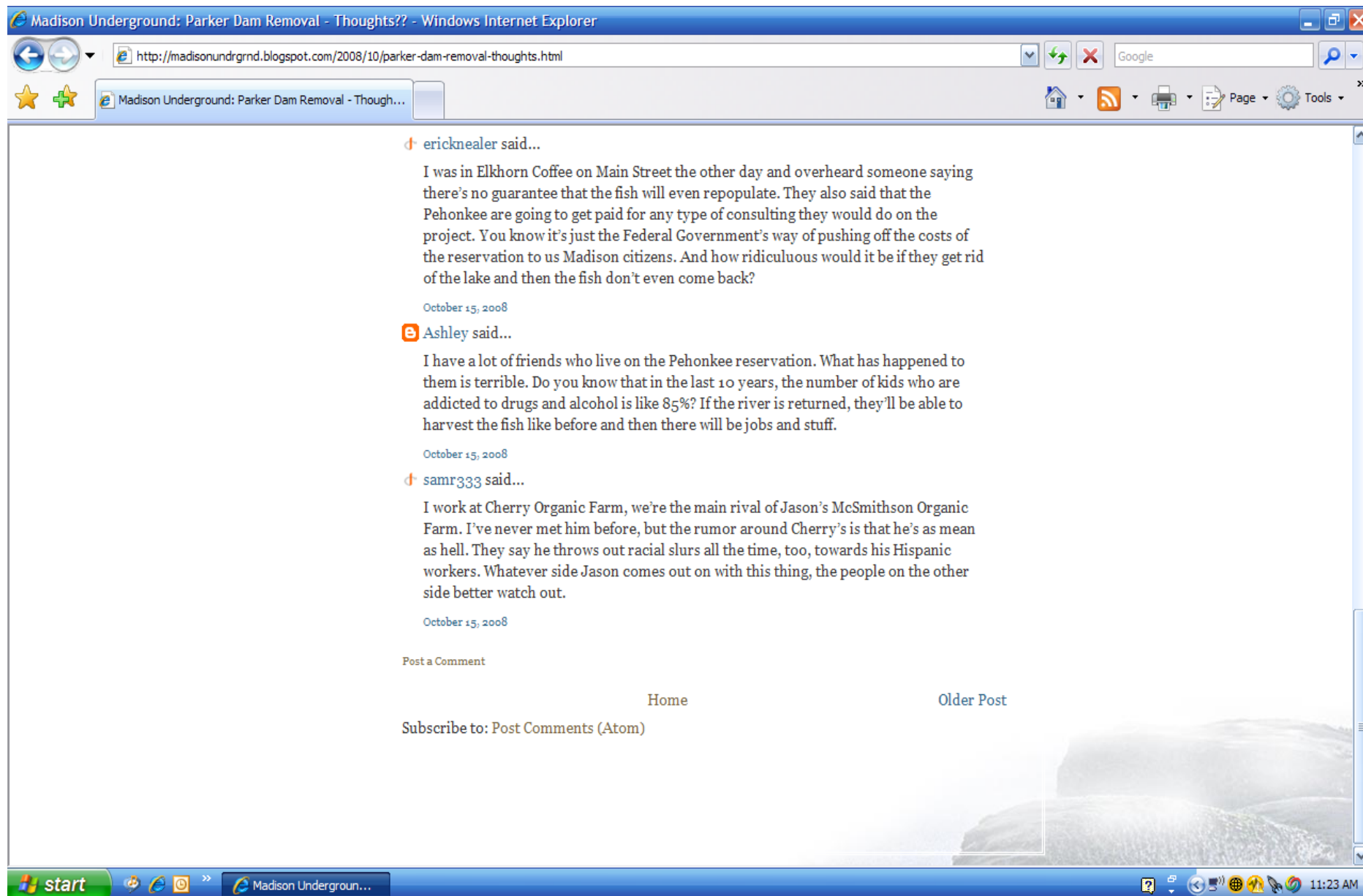
I can't imagine Robert's going to want the dam removed - I don't know him, but he has a house right down the street from me, on the lake. I can't believe they want to remove the dam. Everyone I talk to about this is so upset at the thought of losing the lake. And what about our homes? What about that little community of shops and restaurants that rely on the lake for business? Don't they struggle enough already? What will they do when there's no lake? They say the river will provide recreation, but that would be years away. And all for some fish. When did fish become more important than people??

start

Madison Undergroun...

11:21 AM







# WEST MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

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*TRANSCRIBED FROM THE RECORDING OF WEST MADISON HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT  
CEREMONY  
JUNE 25, 2007*

BY BETTY JOHNSON, GUEST SPEAKER  
OWNER AND OPERATOR, JOHNSON'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Principal Williams, teachers, guests, parents, and most especially, graduating students, thank you for invitin' me to be your commencement speaker. It is truly a great honor. I attended, but didn't graduate from, West Madison High School. So, you must be thinkin' why in the heck is this lady up here talkin' away? Sure, I am not as well educated as you . . . but I have life education. Sure, I have had a different life than many of you will have ... but, like you (I hope), I still dream of a better world. I grew up in a time when, as an African-American woman, racism and sexism were in your face and hard to overcome ... many of you are African-Americans too, and yes that prejudice is still there, though perhaps nowadays just beneath the surface instead of boiling over the top of it. Still, it is there, and you must overcome it – better yet, rise above it – just as I have. I would like to tell you my story . . .

Makin' it as an African-American woman in those days was difficult, and yes, it still is. There were few opportunities for us outside of tenant farmin' and housekeepin', racial slurs were commonplace, and many blacks wanted to separate themselves as much as they could from whites. You see that today, that separation, with most of us blacks livin' together, just outside of town, near the lake.

My husband and I wanted good jobs, and we didn't see why a good one couldn't be started right among our own community. So we started our own business, a small bait-and-tackle shop on the lake that first served our own people, and now serves peoples of all walks of life. Even after my husband died, I kept it goin'. I began to realize (and was maybe even forced to realize by my friends and neighbors), that I stood as an example to young African-Americans in the community. I showed 'em that if you work hard, believe in yourself, and pull yourself up by your bootstraps, you can make it in this world no matter what your background. If you leave here today remembering nothin' else, I hope that message stays with you.

But it hasn't always been about personal success. I don't think you can have success in your life unless you help someone else be successful in theirs. That's why I drove my son to learn and learn hard. He graduated from this very high school and went on to college and then law school. Can you believe he's an environmental lawyer, standin' up against big corporations to make sure our land is safe from harm? That's also why I've been a volunteer at the West Madison Center for Underprivileged Youth for over 35 years. That's why I founded a support group at the Center for single mothers and fathers. I tell my kids at the Center that no one is better than anyone else, everyone can make it in life, and that every single one of them has special gifts they should share with the world. So, you young-folk out there, I ask you - what are your special gifts? How are you going to share them with the world? You go on out and make a difference!

# WEBSEARCHMadison.com

[Advanced Search](#)  
[Settings](#)

## WebSearchMadison.com, a dedicated Madison County search engine, found 8 results for Jason McSmithson:

### Madison High School Classes of 1996 to 2000 – Where are they now?

Ever wonder what's happened to your fellow high school classmates? Check here for updates! ...Michael Jeffries (class of 1999): All-star quarterback who led MH to its first state football championship in nearly twenty years along with best friends **Jason McSmithson**, receiver (2001) and Erik Bearing, running back (1999) ... Mike's living in Madison City with his wife and three children... been employed as a maintenance repairman with the Parker Dam Association for almost 10 years ... has remained close friends with his top receiver, **Jason McSmithson** "...families play together every weekend," says **Jason McSmithson**...

[www.madisonhs.k12.us/alumniupdates/1996\\_2000.html](http://www.madisonhs.k12.us/alumniupdates/1996_2000.html) - 259k – [cached](#) – [similar pages](#) - [note this](#)

### The Wildlife Support Organization - Madison Chapter

May 23, 2008: Topics for the Parker Dam Coalition meeting include: Partnering with the Pehonkee for dam removal (guest speaker: Susan Redwing, Pehonkee Reservation council member) ... Parker Dam's impact on the pink and coho salmon (guest speaker: Wildlife Support Organization's chapter president Erick Lausson) ... Pros and cons of dam removal (guest speaker: **Jason McSmithson**, resident and small business owner)... Implications of water stratification (guest speaker: university professor Jason Everett) ...

[www.thewildlifesupportorg.org/madison/events/parker\\_dam\\_coalition/](http://www.thewildlifesupportorg.org/madison/events/parker_dam_coalition/) - 221k – [cached](#) – [similar pages](#) - [note this](#)

### Model Plane Builders Association of Madison County 2007 Awards

. . . only amateur model airplane builders, **Jason McSmithson** and Michael Jeffries picked up the hobby at young ages. . . despite their lack of experience, **Jason McSmithson** and Michael Jeffries not only entered but won the Class 5 division trophy for "Top Model Plane of 2007" with their . . .

[www.mpbamc.com/2007/awards.html](http://www.mpbamc.com/2007/awards.html) - 91k – [cached](#) – [similar pages](#) - [note this](#)

### McSmithson Organic Produce

Welcome to my website, my name is **Jason McSmithson** and I run a small, local organic produce store where I sell fruits and vegetables that I grow on my farm just outside the city of Madison. I have a degree in environmental studies, with a minor in agriculture from Paddington University ... I am certified by the National Organic Growers Association, do not use pesticides on my fruits and vegetables, and use only environmentally friendly products to . . .

[www.smithorganicproduce.com/index.html](http://www.smithorganicproduce.com/index.html) - 174k – [cached](#) – [similar pages](#) - [note this](#)

### Madison Residents Coalition

We are a group of Madison residents who strive to maintain the small-town feel that embodies Madison... February 12, 2006, Cook@madisonsteakhouse.net writes: Can anyone tell me about **Jason McSmithson** Produce? Everyone says **Jason McSmithson** is an environmentalist and won't sell his produce to restaurants that use beef, and so I should boycott buying at his farm ... [www.blogs.com/madison/mrc/february\\_12\\_2006.html](http://www.blogs.com/madison/mrc/february_12_2006.html) - 184k – [cached](#) – [similar pages](#) - [note this](#)

### **Madison Monitor Press – Serving the residents of Madison**

April 23, 2007: The Monitor Local Resident Profile – **Jason McSmithson** ...**Jason McSmithson** says, “When I went to college I had no idea what my major would be. I stumbled on environmental studies through a general requirement. Once I started taking more courses, I realized how connected everything is – what we do today, or yesterday, or tomorrow will impact our rivers, our wildlife, our crops, our vegetables...” **Jason McSmithson** also says, “That’s why I started my organic farm and volunteer at The Wildlife Support Organization. We can’t start too soon in trying to clean up our messes from the past and prevent as many as possible in the future ...”

[www.madisonmonitor.com/localprofiles/Jason\\_McSmithson.html](http://www.madisonmonitor.com/localprofiles/Jason_McSmithson.html) - 241k – [cached](#) – [similar pages](#) - [note this](#)

### **Madison Daily Press – Serving the residents of Madison**

June 2, 2007: Volunteer Opportunities – **Jason** Mallory, Lilly **McSmithson**, Sarah Jeffries, Laura Smith, Erik Hust...volunteers for the Parker Dam Maintenance Workers Injury Foundation

[www.madisondaily.com/volunteering/june\\_2007.html](http://www.madisondaily.com/volunteering/june_2007.html) - 76k – [cached](#) – [similar pages](#) - [note this](#)

### **Trekkers USA Blogspot and Virtual Gaming**

Virtual Results: 1. Carlee O'**McSmithson** 2. Brooke Brookie Tie between: 3. RTD2 Asia 4. Romulean .... Raccoon Boy **Jason** Yates was next—next virtual game is July. ...

[www.blogspot.trekkersusa/2008/march.html](http://www.blogspot.trekkersusa/2008/march.html) - 84k – [cached](#) – [similar pages](#) - [note this](#)

# The Madison Monitor

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<http://www.madisonmonitor.com/news/community/july12.story>

*From the Madison Monitor*

## Local Profiles in Courage: Betty Johnson

By Vicki Vickson

Betty Johnson is not your average Madisonian. Like many of us, she was born and raised here. Like many of us, she goes to church every Sunday, volunteers in the community, and votes. Like many of us, she has worked hard to provide a better life for her loved ones. But unlike most of us, she has done it almost entirely on her own, through some tremendous adversity. Today, she has emerged, quite unintentionally, as a leader in her community and a role model for African-Americans and women everywhere.

Betty's family growing up was poor, and in 10<sup>th</sup> grade she had to drop out of high school to take care of her ailing father. A few years after his death, Betty met her future husband while volunteering at the local children's center. "We both believed in responsibility. Everyone must be responsible for makin' things better, not just thinkin' it needs to be better." Together they started a small bait-and-tackle store near the lakefront. Life wasn't easy, but they had what they needed to get by and enjoyed interacting with those in their moderately-sized African-American community as well as the tourists who came to their shop. "Ya know, a lotta rich folk come to the B&T (as she likes to refer to her store) in their nice cars, wearin' their fancy fishin' vests. I treat 'em just the same as everyone else, no matter who they are . . . with respect, courtesy, and good pricing."

Tragically, Betty's husband was killed in a car accident two weeks after the birth of their only son, Marcus, leaving Betty to raise the boy on her own. In the 27 years to follow, Betty devoted herself almost entirely to running the bait and tackle shop, raising Marcus (now a lawyer in Paddington who specializes in environmental rights), and advocating for African American advancement. She has started a support group at the children's center for single mothers and fathers, and has been invited to Madison Town Hall and West Madison High School to speak out on African-American issues.

Today, Betty still owns and operates the same bait and tackle shop on the lake. It is a source of pride in her African-American community, a landmark which has been in business for nearly 50 years. It's also a gathering place for local meetings, where tonight Betty and other community leaders are discussing the possible removal of the dam and the effect that might have on their tourism-dependent businesses.

If you want other stories on this topic, search the Archives at [madisonmonitor.com/archives](http://madisonmonitor.com/archives).  
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