

Welcome to MORTON FOREST



UW Professor Walter A. Morton and his wife, Rosalie A. Morton, purchased 81 acres which included the house and added the adjacent 39 acres in 1962. The property was used as a weekend retreat with limited services and structures. The Morton family (Walter, Rosalie, Jane, and Stephen) enjoyed the quiet and peaceful nature of the surrounding countryside.



Original plat map, circa 1962.

The original farmhouse burned down and the present cabin and well were constructed.



A view of the new cabin

Under the direction of Stephen Morton, Glenville Timberwrights constructed the two unique shelters to highlight the scenic overlooks.



One of the overlook shelters

In collaboration with the Madison Community Foundation, Stephen Morton created a permanent endowment fund to support Morton Forest.

Stephen Morton generously donated the property to Dane County Parks with a life estate, to preserve the land as a quiet, peaceful hiking and bird-watching park for the public.

Stephen Morton turned the property over to the county to create Morton Forest, which officially opened to the public in October of 2016.

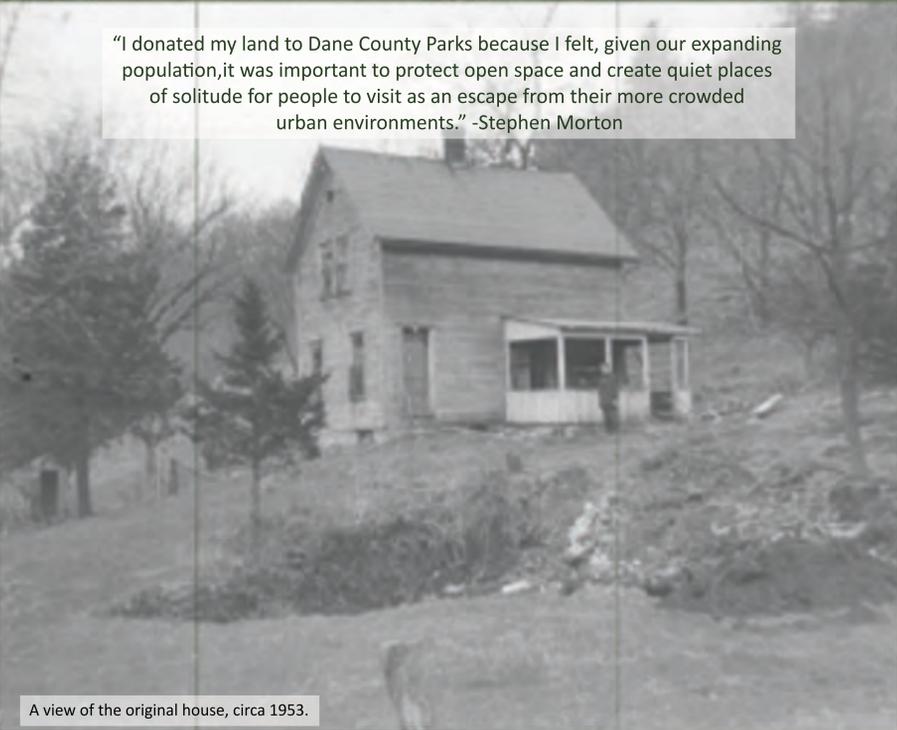


Entrance sign for Morton Forest

Professor Morton passed away, leaving the property to his son Stephen.



"I donated my land to Dane County Parks because I felt, given our expanding population, it was important to protect open space and create quiet places of solitude for people to visit as an escape from their more crowded urban environments." -Stephen Morton



A view of the original house, circa 1953.



A view of the limestone bluff, circa 1953.



The original windmill, used to draw water from the well.