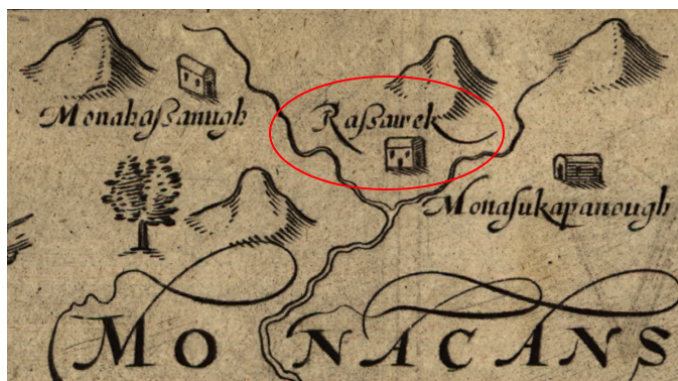


THE MONACAN INDIAN NATION URGES YOU TO HELP SAVE RASSAWEK

The James River Water Authority (JRWA) plans to build a water pump station on top of Rassawek, the Monacans' capital city documented by John Smith in his 1612 Map of Virginia (see image). JRWA must move the project to an alternative location so that Rassawek can be saved for future generations and Monacan ancestors can be allowed to rest in peace.



- Rassawek was located at the confluence of the Rivanna and James Rivers, and John Smith described it as the capital city to which all other Monacan towns paid tribute. Researchers from the Smithsonian verified the location in the 1880s and again in the 1930s, and the Commonwealth of Virginia has included the Rassawek archaeological site in its files since at least 1980. It is the Monacan equivalent of Werowocomoco, the Powhatan capital now planned to be a national park.
- JRWA (a joint venture of Louisa and Fluvanna Counties) proposes to build a pump station to deliver water to help attract economic development, such as prospective breweries and data centers, in Zion Crossroads. JRWA chose the Rassawek site because they thought it would be the least expensive of several options. **Building the pump station on top of Rassawek will mean that the site will be obliterated and Monacan burials will likely be disturbed.**
- Monacan tribal members have participated in several previous repatriation ceremonies previously, and **these are somber and traumatizing occasions** that the tribe does not enter into lightly or when other options exist. The Monacan Indian Nation has asked the Department of Historic Resources to **deny JRWA's burial permit application** and not allow them to dig up Monacan ancestors.
- JRWA has applied for a **permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)** because the project impacts waters that are regulated by the Corps. The Corps must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires the Corps to take into account the adverse effects of the permitted actions on historic properties and to take steps to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those adverse effects. The Corps must also consult with affected federally recognized Indian tribes and take their comments into account. The Corps is also consulting with community stakeholders, including Preservation Virginia, the Fluvanna Historical Society, the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society, and local landowners, all of whom oppose locating the project at Rassawek.
- JRWA and the Corps have known about the extent of the archaeological, tribal, and historic sensitivity of the site since at least as early as 2015. However, they did not reach out to the Monacan Indian Nation until June 2017, after the decision regarding where to site the project had been finalized and the land had been purchased.

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MONACAN REMAINS AND ARTIFACTS AT RISK

JRWA wants to keep the project's location on top of Rassawek and has hired a consulting firm to conduct archaeological testing and to conduct an abbreviated archaeological dig. The consulting firm has proven themselves unethical and unqualified. First, their draft treatment plan proved that they are completely lacking in expertise to undertake an excavation of a site like Rassawek—indeed, few archaeologists in Virginia have experience with such complex and deeply stratified sites. In addition to being unqualified, their consultants have proven to be unethical. First, they have violated the terms of their anticipatory burial permit multiple times, resulting in a complaint letter from Virginia's Department of Historic Resources. Second, significant portions of the Treatment Plan were copied, word for word, from the dissertation of Jessica Herlich, a doctoral student of Professor Martin Gallivan. In addition, Dan Hayes submitted a letter to the Corps explaining that Circa used his name without his permission and that he never saw the Treatment Plan on which he is listed as an author.

The Nation has profound concerns about the quality of the work submitted so far and the willingness of JRWA to commit enough funding to do a good job on such an important site.

Proposed methods and statements by **JRWA representatives indicate that their driving motivation in this project is keeping costs low**, not engaging thoughtfully with Monacan concerns. JRWA is pushing the Corps to END the consultation process despite grave ongoing concerns regarding the project design and the condition of the agreement documents.

In 2018, Virginia and the United States began a new era when they recognized the persistence of the Commonwealth's Indian tribes and our nation's enduring trust responsibilities to them. This project is a vestige of Virginia's ugly history towards its indigenous people, and the Monacans ask that you stand with them in opposing it.