The Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk Nation, People of the Sacred Voice) have existed in Teejóp since time immemorial, spanned at least three ice ages. There are ~2,000 Hoocąkra (Ho-Chunk peoples) and 12 Hoocąk clans: Kwiką (Eagle Clan), Manage (Warrior Hawk Clan), Wîhêk (Water/Spirit Clan), Ho (Fish Clan), Wôbi (Snake Clan), Šuâk (Wolf Clan), Ho (Bear Clan), Cu (Deer Clan), Hâsq (Elk Clan), Cây (Buffalo Clan), Rhîng (Opossum Clan), and Wîshkîpin (Thunder Clan).

In 1825, a temporary U.S. federal treaty map (shown to the right in red) was imposed on the Hoocąk. These boundaries were designed to assign the colonial government negotiating inter-tribal rivalries and impose American land ownership norms on the tribes. These boundaries were disrupted and supported cultural erasure and genocide. In pre-colonial times, the Hoocąk lived in and moved through these landscapes in cyclical migrations, following seasonally available resources. These migration routes were handed down cross-generationally, and were imbued with cultural meaning and significance.

Today as a sovereign nation, the Hoocąk have their own executive, legislative, and judicial government branches. The legislative branch has three districts (jpâc hoćiwa) in Wisconsin (shown and numbered to the right in yellow). The fourth includes all regions outside of state. The Nation also has a general council open to anyone 18 years or older. These branches blend with a traditional chief- and clan-based system and adhere to the Nation’s constitution.

Highlighting Cultural Parallels: the places marked in red (in the Village of Waunakee, below) are examples of the types of sites that likely existed in pre-colonial Ho-Chunk villages. When viewed as a whole, these sites providing an example of a traditional pre-colonial Ho-Chunk village layout.