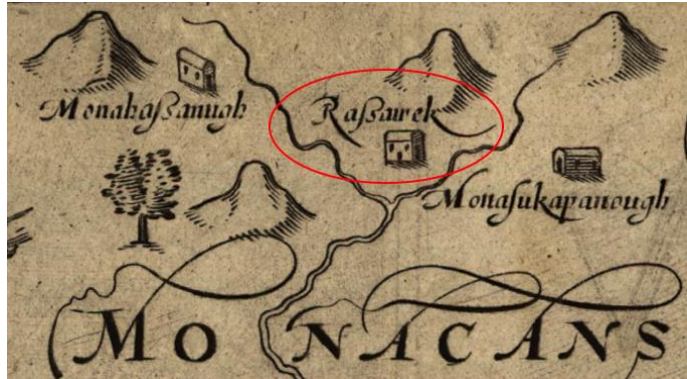




## THE MONACAN INDIAN NATION URGES YOU TO HELP SAVE RASSAWEK

The James River Water Authority (JRWA) plans to build a water pump station on top of Rassawek, the Monacans' historic capital, identified by John Smith in his 1612 Map of Virginia (see image). To save Rassawek for future generations and allow Monacan ancestors to rest in peace, JRWA must move the project to one of several available alternative locations.



- JRWA (a joint venture of Louisa and Fluvanna Counties) proposes to build a pump station to deliver water to support development at Zion Crossroads, a nearby area to which they hope to attract businesses. According to disclosed documents, JRWA chose the Rassawek site because their consultants told them it would be the least expensive.
- Rassawek was located at the confluence of the Rivanna and James Rivers, and a Mannahoac man, Amorolek, described the place to John Smith as the capital city to which all other Monacan towns paid tribute. Researchers have verified its location in the 1880s, the 1930s, and the 1980s. It is the Monacan equivalent of Werowocomoco, the Powhatan capital now planned to be a national park. While JRWA and the Corps learned of the site's historical significance in 2015, they did not reach out to the Monacan Indian Nation until June 2017, after they had purchased the land.
- **Building the pump station on top of Rassawek will mean that the site will be obliterated and untold Monacan burials will almost certainly be disturbed.** Monacan tribal members are deeply opposed to conducting another somber and traumatizing reburial when JRWA has alternatives.
- JRWA has applied for an **individual permit from the Army Corps of Engineers** (Corps) because the project impacts waters that are regulated by the Corps. An earlier simpler permit style was shelved after **shocking revelations** that JRWA's initial archaeological subconsultant employed untrained and unqualified staff, lied to state officials, misrepresented the archaeological findings, and did not follow accepted archaeological standards. She was then disqualified by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- An individual permit requires, among other things, a robust analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act that will consider alternate sites and assess which site locations create the fewest environmental impacts. However, JRWA's alternatives analysis undervalues the known harms at the current site, and contains insufficient enough information to determine what impacts those alternatives would have on Monacan burials and cultural resources.
- The Monacan Indian Nation have been voicing concerns about the archaeological work on the site since November 2018. In the summer of 2019, a whistleblower came forward with concerns that the archaeological work on the site was destructive, was conducted in bad faith, and generated unreliable results. The practices used on Rassawek and other sites are so inappropriate that they rise to the level of anticipatory demolition – destruction of historic resources explicitly forbidden by the National Historic Preservation Act.

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- Specifically, under the National Historic Preservation Act, the Corps cannot issue a permit to an applicant who has damaged archaeological sites. Congress enacted Section 110(k) of the NHPA to punish those who would seek to manipulate the historic preservation permitting process by denying them access to post-demolition permits.
- The Corps has thus far ignored anticipatory demolition concerns, and they are not requiring an Environmental Impact Statement. The Nation is concerned that the Corps will **allow this flawed project to move forward** without complying with federal law.

**JRWA has been misleading the tribe and the community. JRWA hid the fact that they knew this site was of great historic, cultural, and spiritual significance to the Monacans. JRWA hid the fact that they have alternative locations. They bought this site before ever involving the tribe. JRWA chose to build a portion of the project knowing they did not yet have a permit to complete the other half. Now JRWA claims surprise that the tribe objects and that it may cost more to choose other sites. This is a problem of JRWA's own making. Virginia native communities deserve better. The Monacans deserve respect, and harm to Monacan sacred sites must be avoided.**

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

##### **Advocate with Public Officials!**

Tell the JRWA and the Boards of Supervisors of Louisa and Fluvanna Counties that they must move the project and **Save Rassawek!**

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