

## Mystery Photo #10



If you guessed that the earthen mounds in this photo are part of the Nike Missile site in the northern part of the property, you are correct. Nike missiles protected Milwaukee from attack by Soviet long-range bombers from 1955 through 1971. There were eight sites, similar to the one here at Havenwoods, encircling the city. Each site consisted of a launcher area, an integrated fire control area, and an administrative area.

The Milwaukee sites included:

- M-02 (Milwaukee – West Brown Deer Road)
- M-20 (Milwaukee – Harbor Drive)
- M-42 (Cudahy – South Lake Drive)
- M-54 (Hales Corners) – West Ryan Road)
- M-64 (Muskegon/Prospect)
- M-74 (Waukesha)
- M-86 (Lannon)
- M-96 (Milwaukee – Silver Spring Drive)

In the interest of efficiency, the Army built all of the Nike sites on the same basic plan. The diagram to the right shows the launcher area which was here at Havenwoods. The control area was located south of the diagonal railroad tracks where the 84th Training Command is located today.

Nike missiles arrived at each site in pieces. This was largely due to regulations regarding the shipping of explosives. However, there was a certain amount of secrecy regarding the

existence and locations of Nike installations. Shipping thirty missiles (each measuring 35 feet in length) to each launcher site would probably have made it very difficult to keep those secrets.

When the missile pieces arrived, soldiers assembled them in the Missile Assembly and Test Building. From here, they were wheeled between the 10-foot tall earthen berms that separated the fueling and launching areas. Here soldiers fueled the missiles and attached the warheads. Fueling was a potentially hazardous operation, so the berms (one straight and one kidney-shaped) were designed to deflect the force of an accidental explosion. After fueling, soldiers wheeled the missiles to the elevators, lowering them down into the underground magazines for storage. The missiles were regularly raised to the surface in test drills, but they were never fired. The Nike site here was abandoned in 1963. If you are interested in Nike history, I recommend Ed Thelen's website (<http://ed-thelen.org/>) and Donald Bender's website (<http://alpha.fdu.edu/~bender/nike.html>).

