



Department of Public Works

## Engineering Division

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October 19, 2022

City of Madison Forestry

Subject: Permit for Tree Removal for Mendota Grassman Greenway Flood Mitigation

Dear City Forestry,

The City of Madison Stormwater Utility (SWU) hereby applies for a permit to remove trees in the Mendota Grassman Greenway with the proposed flood mitigation project. The SWU has an obligation to maintain our stormwater infrastructure and implement projects that mitigate flooding of neighboring residents. The Mendota Grassman project was identified in the Strickers/Mendota Watershed Study that provided a master plan of conceptual solutions for reaching the City's flood mitigation targets within the watershed.

The SWU hired a certified arborist in spring 2020 to tag and complete an inventory of all of the trees within the greenway identifying the species, DBH, and health of each tree. During the channel design, the SWU worked to minimize the size of the proposed improved floodway in order to reduce impacts to trees, and modified the design of the channel in many locations in order to save healthy oaks and hickories. Trees within the grading limits of the deepened and widened channel and access paths need to be removed with the project. Additionally, the SWU plans to remove trees that are in poor condition outside of the grading limits. Each tree was carefully assessed to determine if removal would be beneficial to the overall health of the site and worked to balance the flood mitigation needs of the project with tree preservation.

The greenway in its current condition is densely wooded, but it is full of species that are either common in urban woodlots, or are aggressive non-native species. The SWU plans to improve the diversity of the greenway by planting native shrubs, trees and herbaceous species appropriate for ecological restoration historic to this area, are tolerant of fluctuating water conditions that are anticipated in this channel, and will stabilize the understory from the risk of channel erosion.

A contractor will begin tree removals once the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee approval is obtained, a permit is issued, and the contract is bid by the Engineering Division, likely in spring 2023. The map attached shows the tree removals proposed.

Sincerely,

For:

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Jim Wolfe, P.E.  
City Engineer