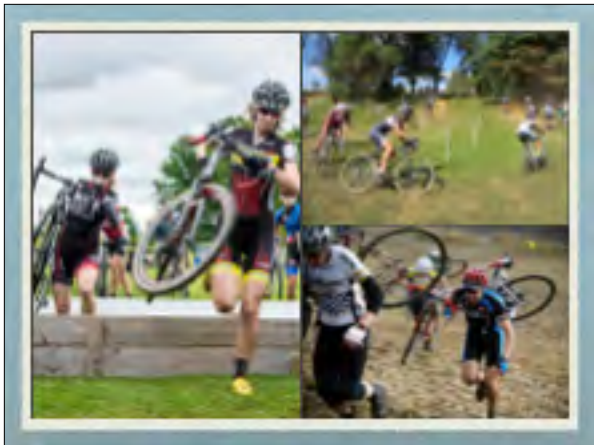


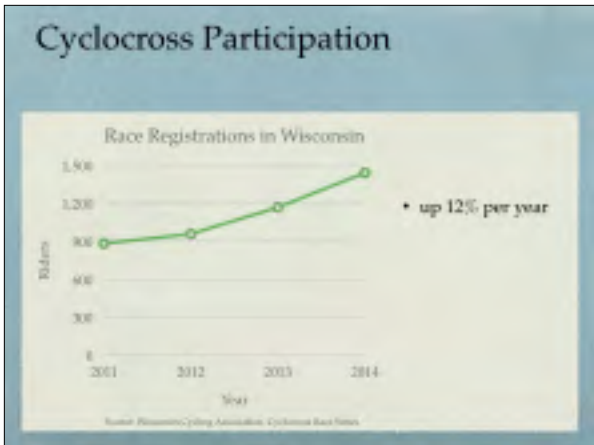
1

A good description of cyclocross is steeplechase on bikes.



2

Each lap is similar to a cross country running course featuring mostly grass, with sharp turns, steep hills and small hurdles. Cyclocross has a tradition in Europe going back at least 50 years, while interest in the U.S. has picked up in recent decades.



3

In Madison and Dane County, interest and participation in races continues to grow every year... While races begin in September, practices begin in July and continue into November.

Cyclocross Practice  
Badger Prairie Park



4

This is cyclocross practice. [video of practice] Kids and adults ride for a few hours on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening, and then go to race events together on weekends.



5

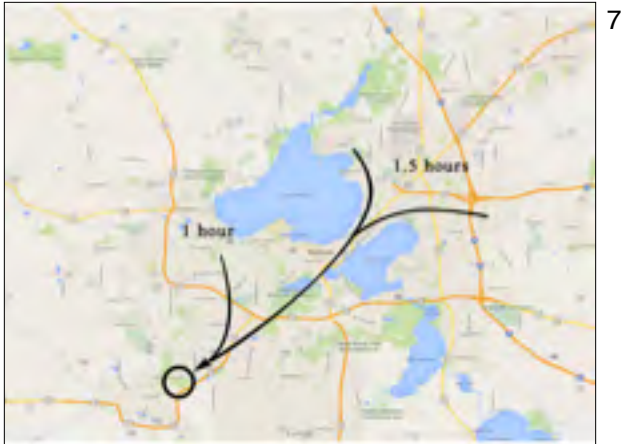
Some of you may have searched the internet for cyclocross and found images like this... Muddy race events like this are actually quite rare, and only raced with the permission of the land manager or parks department.  
But we're not here to talk about racing.

Cyclocross Practice  
Badger Prairie Park



6

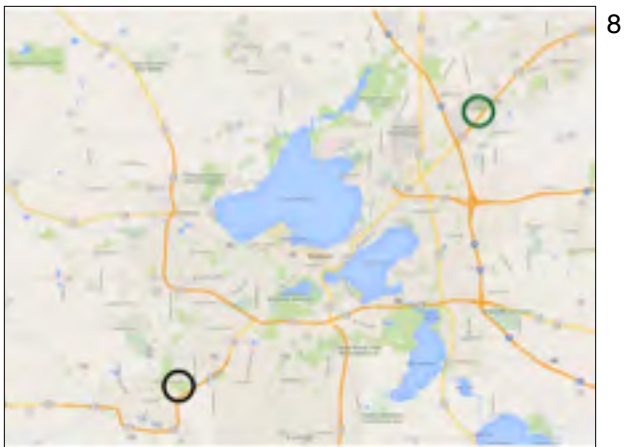
We're here to talk about practice in dry conditions. [video of practice]  
At practice, riders use mowed grass areas to improve skills essential for safe, confident racing.



7

In all of Dane County, Badger Prairie is the only park officially available for cyclocross practice.

For many Madison residents it's pretty hard to get there within a reasonable amount of time. With evening bike commutes like these, everyone wants a better arrangement.



8

A dedicated cyclocross facility on the northeast side of Madison could be a reasonable solution that creates a viable option on both sides of the metro area.



9

Through discussions with Parks staff, we agreed that Northeast Greenspace has land ideal for cyclocross practice. This area of the park was seeded with turf grass but is unmowed because Parks has no current use for it.

We can create a practice area here by simply mowing the grass.

## Northeast Greenspace Cyclocross Practice Area



10

Let's take a look at it from eye level.

The course flows naturally and we can use the existing landscape to practice essential skills. It's a small but adequate cyclocross facility, with under a mile of trail.

## Safe Cyclocross Practice

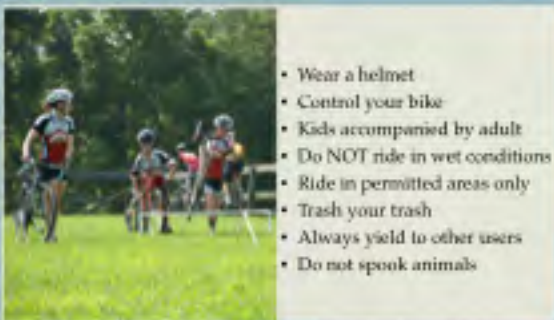


11

As riders, we want to be safe so we can enjoy what we're doing. This is especially important when kids and beginners try to master important skills. At practice, experienced riders mentor younger riders.

And in general, practice is slow, somewhere between jogging and running.

## Safe Cyclocross Practice



12

In addition to standard Park rules, cyclocross follows an off-road bike etiquette.

This list reminds us to protect ourselves, preserve park land and respect other users.

- Wear a helmet
- Control your bike
- Kids accompanied by adult
- Do NOT ride in wet conditions
- Ride in permitted areas only
- Trash your trash
- Always yield to other users
- Do not spook animals

Low Impact  
Cyclocross Practice



13

People often ask me: what happens to the grass? The answer is: very little. In cyclocross, grass provides the best traction. We want to protect the grass because good traction means safer practice and better race results.

Low Impact  
Cyclocross Practice



14

As with other turf sports, blades of grass are pushed over but recover within a few days.

Low Impact  
Cyclocross Practice

December



15

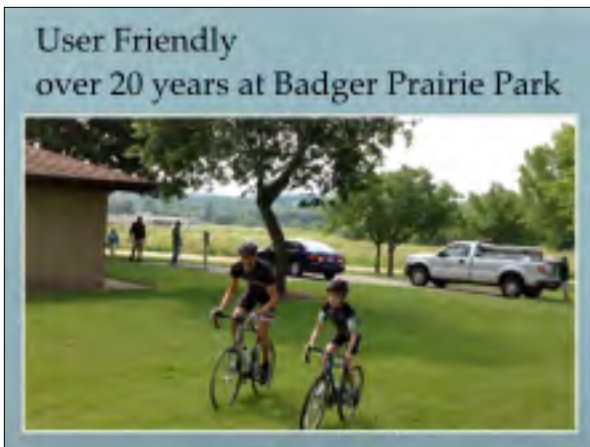
If a specific area is used repeatedly, the blades of grass may turn brown by the end of the season. The result is similar to well-used walking trails like this one on the left.

The photo on the right is after a cyclocross race at Heistand Park. Both photos were taken on the same day in December 2013. Similar impact...



16

...similar recovery.



17

For over 20 years, cyclists have shared the trails with other users. We are courteous and careful around runners and walkers on trails as narrow as 6 feet wide.



18

Working with Madison Parks staff, the trail layout is located on undeveloped park land, and separated from other patron areas. At 16 feet, the trails are wide enough for everyone. The three main reasons Parks should allow CX practice for its underserved residents are: 1, it's a safe, low-speed family-oriented activity, 2, has virtually no environmental impact on mowed grass in dry conditions and, 3, this course respects other patron areas.