

-----Original Message-----

From: ED SNYDER <enkidu7@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 11:57 AM

To: Parks Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee <HabitatStewardshipSu@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Jan Axelson <janaxelson@gmail.com>

Subject: comments for tonights meeting

[You don't often get email from enkidu7@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I support the "Basic Stewardship " alternative management plan for the Mendota unit of the Cherokee Marsh. I live near this park unit and have enjoyed frequent walks there over the last 22 years. The last 6 years I have participated in numerous work parties in the Mendota unit with the Friends of Cherokee marsh. I believe that parts of the north and south woodland parcels have some of the better "mature forest" or even "old growth forest" characteristics in the Madison park system. These characteristics are best supported by the "basic stewardship" alternative in my opinion.

The "Habitat Improvement" alternative would dramatically reduce tree diversity in a time of climate change and oak wilt. I do not support the removal of large numbers of native trees from the Mendota unit of Cherokee Marsh, particularly the north and south woodland parcels.

Large scale tree removal will result in more invasive shrubs and herbaceous plants. A sustained and expensive effort to keep these in check will be required. Any interruption in these efforts will result in massive influx of invasives. We are already doing this aggressive restoration in many of Madisons parks, which will require sustained investment to prevent return of invasives.

Burning the areas would result in the loss of habitat for certain birds and invertebrates due to the removal of snags and down wood. These parcels are very close to Lake Mendota, each burn would likely pump large amounts of nutrients into the lake.

Respectfully,

Ed Snyder