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Report to the Madison Parks Commission

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Thank you very much for your continued support of my urban wildlife research projects on Madison Park's properties.

We continue to live trap and radio collar coyotes and red foxes in Madison as part of our UW Urban Canid Project. The current focus of our research is to understand the mechanism(s) that allows coyotes and red foxes to co-exist in the same space and time; a relationship that seems unique to urban areas relative to rural areas. A second focus of research currently is to understand how well coyotes and red foxes cross roads. We're interested in examining if increased road densities in a coyote or red fox's home range increases the chance for that animal to get killed by a vehicle, or the more roads an animal crosses the more experience they gain and that decreases their risk of vehicle mortality.

The second project I have involves placing 24 wildlife cameras along bike paths throughout Madison to understand how wildlife patterns change, if they do, with zoning and land use/cover changes along an urban to less urban gradient. One of these cameras is placed in Reindahl Park. Madison is one of 14 cities throughout North America that is part of the Urban Wildlife Information Network. This research project is ongoing and we continue to develop results.

I'd like to request approval to continue trapping in select Madison Park properties. I'll communicate with Paul Quinlan (or any other representative of the Commission's choice) prior to starting trapping activity in a specific Park property.

I'd also like to seek approval to continue placing a camera at Reindahl Park the months of January, April, July and October 2021.

Thank you very much

David

David Drake
Extension Wildlife Specialist/Professor