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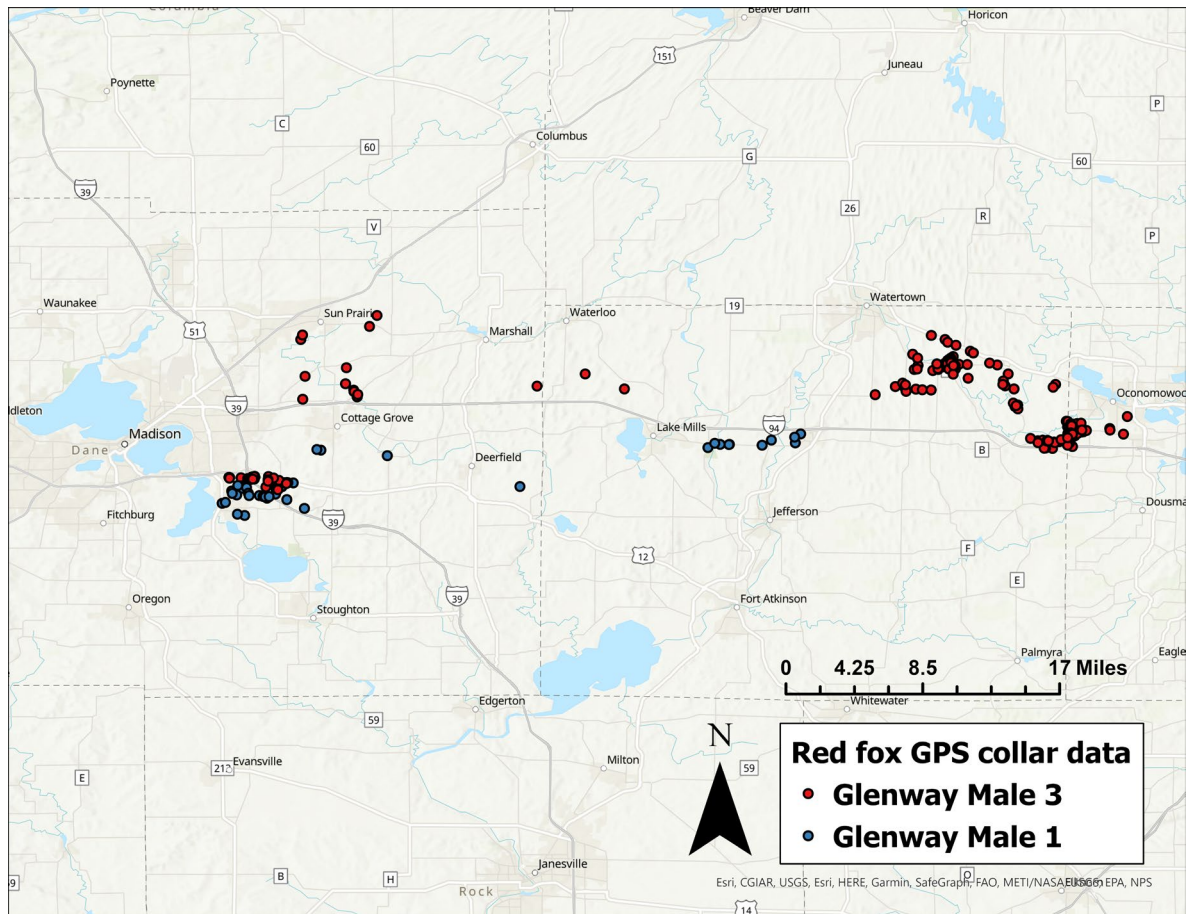
## Report to the Madison Parks Commission

December 2, 2022

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 urban wild canids in Madison as part of our UW Urban Canid Project. However, the focus of our research has shifted this last year. We are no longer trapping and radio collaring coyotes because we are not generating new information due to our research and research from other urban coyote projects. Instead, we are focusing all of our efforts on urban red fox because there are nominal research studies examining urban red fox in North America. Furthermore, we have questions about the red fox population in Madison. For example, we're not sure how stable or variable the red fox population is in Madison. Red foxes in Madison also seem to contradict the optimal foraging theory based on some of their wide-ranging movements. To that end, we have expanded our study area this past year and started trapping in locations on the eastside of Madison. We live trapped and radio collared red foxes in Kennedy and Demetral Parks.

In addition, we were involved in a unique situation in Fall 2022. Red fox kits were digging holes in the greens at Glenway Golf Course on a nightly basis. After consulting with Theran Steindl and attempting some wildlife damage management practices, we decided to live trap, radio collar, and translocate the fox kits to the Yahara Hills Golf Course. It was thought the fox kits would not dig up the greens at Yahara Hills because those greens consisted of a different soil profile than at Glenway. We live trapped, radio collared and translocated 3 of the 4 fox kits (see map below). One of the radio collars failed so we're not sure of the fate of that fox. But the two foxes with working collars dispersed east from Yahara Hills. One settled around Aztlan State Park before getting killed by a car near Aztlan. The other fox with a working collar dispersed east-northeast and has currently settled in a residential area in Oconomowoc. These translocated fox are part of a larger study examining other fox we've translocated in the Madison area; a line of research new to the literature.



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.

Thank you very much

David

David Drake  
Extension Wildlife Specialist/Professor