


# Informational Update on City of Madison's Pond and Greenway Policy

Brief history, current practices and success stories, & plan of  
action in 2017

# (Review) Purpose of the Land Management Policy

- ▶ Define the different types of land cover present in total 1,170 acres City of storm water drainage and environmental corridors.
  - ▶ Create a framework of management practices and goals for each land cover type (prairie, mowed grass, wooded, wetland, etc).
  - ▶ Ensure these systems perform their primary function as storm water drainage and conveyance.
  - ▶ Following **Pollinator Taskforce** recommendations to promote wildlife habitat– especially bee pollinator by reduced mowing and preventing invasive plants from spreading.
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# Maintenance for prairie is called Selective Prairie Management (SPM)

- ▶ SPM is an ongoing Engineering project in which select prairie greenways and ponds maintenance changes from being mowed entirely twice a year, to only spot mowing invasive weed patches as needed to give native plants a chance to establish.
- ▶ 2016 continued maintaining approx. 25% of ponds and greenways with SPM and paused mowing in additional acres. A citizen volunteer, **Si Widstrand**, spent a lot of time to inventory what is actually growing so we can manage it according to our Land Management Policy in 2017

# Example of one of our prairie ponds



# 2016 practices, continued

- ▶ Engineering hired a conservation **Operation Fresh Start** crew for 6 months to do invasive and brush removal. This helps SPM because of their flexibility to move around Madison quickly to spot mow invasives in time, before seeds spread
- ▶ **Si Widstrand** was instrumental with guiding and teaching OFS what we needed them to do for invasive removal, where, and when

# SPM Results:

## Butterflies enjoying unmowed pond habitat in Sept. 2016



# Plan for 2017

- ▶ Si's inventory of paused mowing areas revealed we can expand SPM to 46% of total Engineering pond and greenway acres. Almost all are prairie but a few are turf with especially noxious weeds that require a specific mowing time to avoid spreading weed seed
- ▶ This is 58% of Engineering ponds and 36% of greenways are in prairie category as of 2017
- ▶ After the 2016 inventory we now know the acreage of each type of land category to be maintained according to our policy
- ▶ Engineering will hire Operation Fresh Start conservation crew again for 6 months

# More results: Our OFS crew 2016 and Monarch caterpillar they found in one of our greenways

