

City Engineering Storm Water Utility  
Storm Drainage and Environmental Corridors  
(Greenway Channels, Basins, and their Edges)  
Land Use Policy

## PURPOSE

The City of Madison Storm Water Utility is responsible for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the City's storm water drainage and conveyance system. This system includes approximately 1500 acres of connected environmental corridors that include significant acreage beyond the storm flow areas. The purpose of this policy is to define the appropriate times of use for these lands under the control of the utility.

This policy is intended to ensure that these areas perform their primary function of storm water drainage, conveyance and treatment while allowing for the use of the areas for recreation and wildlife habitat without adversely affecting the adjacent property owners.

From the public perspective, the greenway and pond system is often viewed as an extension of the parks system. However, from a regulatory perspective there are several significant differences:

- 1) Mowing by adjacent property owners is allowed by ordinance.
- 2) Dogs are allowed in greenway/pond areas unless posted as prohibited.
- 3) Currently there are no limitations on hours of use of the greenway.

Most City of Madison neighborhood parks have approved hours of use from 4 AM till 10:00 PM. Greenways/ponds often have different uses (star gazing, and dog walking...) than parklands. Given the above and given the current curfew in Madison for those under 16 is 11:00 PM, this policy sets the approved hours of use for parcels owned by the Storm Sewer Utility from 5:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

Further, by written/email request to the City Engineer, a variance may be granted allowing use outside of those times provided it is approved by the City Engineer and the Alderperson for the district in which the request is being made.

Outside of those hours or without authorization citizens using these areas may be requested to leave by police officials.