

Pond Survey Request
City of Madison Parks
April 26, 2019

Project Summary: We are requesting access to City of Madison parks (see attached park list) to survey freshwater ponds. Our surveys will not harm any freshwater vertebrates, all of which will be immediately released at the location where they were caught. The overall goal of our project is to understand how land use affect aquatic communities of zooplankton, invertebrates, and pond-breeding amphibians. The research will involve field surveys of ponds across land use gradients including urbanization, agricultural lands, and conservation areas. Results of this work will advance knowledge about the factors structuring ecological communities and will be directly relevant towards managing urban and agricultural ponds for multiple uses, including the provisioning of ecosystem services and habitat for wildlife. Many of the ponds in our project serve important roles in the management of urban stormwater, including flood mitigation, sediment removal, and improvement of water quality.

Survey Methods: Our pond surveys will involve sampling amphibians from aquatic habitats using dip nets and seine nets. After visual identification, all captured amphibians will be immediately returned the water. The use of nets may inadvertently capture fishes, which will also be immediately returned to the water. No vertebrates will be collected or harmed during our field surveys. To survey invertebrates, we will use a combination of dip nets and a fine mesh zooplankton net. Invertebrates, including insects and zooplankton, will be collected and preserved for identification in the laboratory.

Survey Timing: We will visit each pond twice over the summer. The first visit will occur in May or June and the second will occur in July or August. We are happy to coordinate with park managers and/or provide a notice about the specific dates we plan to visit specific parks. We are also flexible on the timing of specific visits within the early and late summer windows.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Dan Preston and David Drake
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UW-Madison