

# Madison Parks Volunteering



# John Weichelt

## Volunteer Coordinator – Madison Parks

### Responsibilities

- Connect community members with meaningful opportunities to care for our parks, from conservation projects to events and neighborhood partnerships. I help volunteers and groups succeed by organizing projects, supporting staff, and building systems that make getting involved easy and rewarding.

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(608) 261-9179 or (608) 445-5086 (cell)

# Volunteer Highlights

**12,909**

Total Number of  
Volunteer Hours in  
2025

**1,803**

Total Number of  
Volunteers in 2025

**\$449,104**

TOTAL \$\$\$ Value of Volunteer Donated  
Hours in 2024\*

# Types of Volunteers

- Long Term Volunteers
- Short Term Volunteers
  - Special Events
  - Volunteer Work Days
- Group Volunteering
- Youth
- Friends Group Member
- Board Members/Commissions



# Why Volunteer with Madison Parks?

Socialization

Connect with your community

A New Experience

Life Changing

Hours Requirements

Build your Resume

Recognition Activities

Personal Satisfaction



## Use Your Skills:

- Gardening/landscaping
- Teaching/instruction
- Admin
- Sales
- Writing
- Handiwork

# Volunteer Positions

- Plant & Flower Gardener
- Land Stewardship
- Dog Park Steward
- Goat Check
- Park and Beach Clean Up
- Seed Collection
- Special Event Assistance
- Community Monitors
- Ice Maintenance
- AND MANY MORE+++



## Low Impact Volunteer Roles

- Seed Collection
- Light Gardening
- Weeding
- Goat Check
- Instructors
- Board Membership



## Volunteer with Madison Parks

Scan to get connected



City of Madison Parks

# Volunteer Software – Get Connected



- **Emails:** please check spam to ensure you receive emails
- **Hours Tracking:** utilize this tool to count your hours
- **Friend Group Integration:** create friend group presence and facilitate recruitment

# Group Ideas

## Conservation and Environmental Projects

- Native Plantings
- Litter cleanups
- Seed collection
- Invasive species removal
- Community Science

## Adopt-a-Park

- Monthly cleanups and park maintenance
- Partnering with local Friends group for ongoing support

## Special Event Support

- Volunteering at festivals or park events (e.g., Ride the Drive)
- Helping with setup/cleanup



# Volunteer Plantings

## 5 Planting Events

8,000 sq ft of new pollinator habitat  
2 fruit tree guilds added to the park system

### **Totals:**

8,477 native seedlings planted  
25 trees  
36 shrubs



### **Project Highlights:**

*Olbrich Nature Play: 2,894 plugs, 2 trees*

*Tenney Shelter: 3,083 plugs, 3 trees*

*Brittingham: 1,200 plugs, 7 trees, 6 edible shrubs*

*Whitetail Ridge: 5 fruit trees*

*Hiestand: 30 shrubs, 8 trees*

# What's Coming Next for Volunteers!



- Goat Herds Checking
- Beach Cleanup – Ongoing [HERE](#)
- Invasive Removal - Ongoing
- Parks Alive! – Various Summer dates
- Ride the Drive – August 9
- Fall Plantings & Seed Collection!
- Winter Ice Maintenance

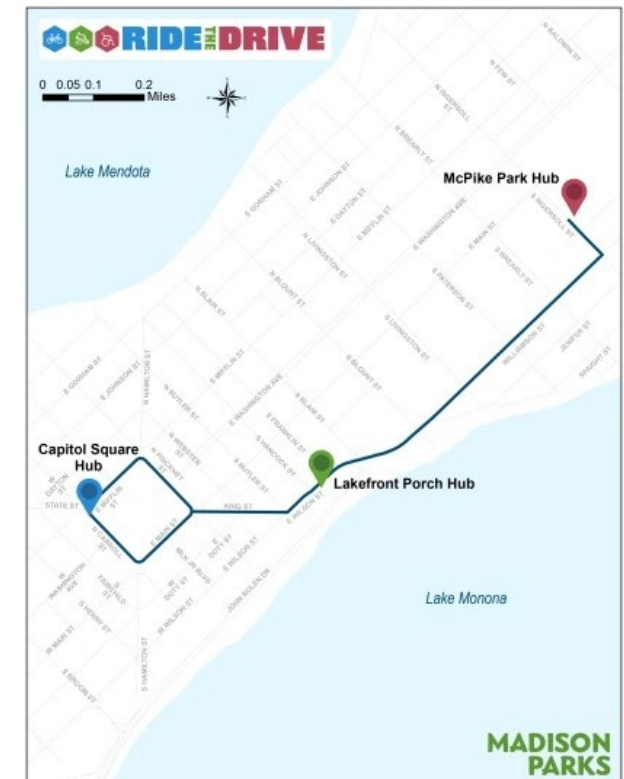


August 9, 2026

Ride the Drive 2026! Volunteers get a cool tee, sunscreen, bug spray, water, and snacks. The event typically runs from 10am to 2pm, with streets closed from 8am to 3pm.

**Volunteer Roles Available:**

- **Intersection Guides:** Ensure participant safety and redirect traffic
- **Setup Crew:** Help set up booths and barricades
- **Bike Ambassadors:** Provide mobile support along the route
- **Cleanup Crew:** Break down equipment and clean up
- **Merchandise:** Assist in selling commemorative items
- **Info Booth:** Help attendees find route info and answer questions



# Questions?



\* Photo by Luna Collins