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Madison City Parks Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to request access to a number of Madison City parks this summer to catch bats as part of research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I have obtained the appropriate permit from the Wisconsin DNR for catching the bats, but I still need landowner/manager approval before entering lands. I would catch the bats at night (generally between 8 pm and 5 am, but primarily before midnight) using mist nets. These nets are temporary, stationary nets that I would install and later remove each night. Basically, the nets consist of two poles approximately 12 m apart that are connected by a flat vertical net that is up to 20 m high. The nets are made of fine mesh, and flying bats accidentally fall into them. In operating the nets, I would be present to immediately remove any bats that are caught. In some cases, I would have 1 or 2 students assisting me with nets. Some bats would be released immediately and others would be collected live and transported to the University (not to exceed 38 bats). The parks that I think are most promising for catching bats are listed below:

Warner Park
Marshall Park
Vilas (Henry) Park
Turville Point Conservation Park
Olin Park
Tenney Park
Spring Harbor Park
Elver Park
Olbrich Park
Burrows Park
Wingra Park and Boat Livery
Cherokee Marsh
Yahara parkway
Yahara place park
Starkweather creek/Sherry(OB) park
Owen park
Goodman park
Kettle pond park
Hoyt park

Sincerely,

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