

## **Comments on the Turville Point Conservation Park Habitat Management Plan draft 2/12/2019**

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Madison Parks' Land Management Plan (2017) A hyperlink to this document would be a great addition. It is really hard to find on the Parks website.

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#### **Management Level 3 (extensive restoration)**

This is the only option of the three detailed in the Habitat Management Plan that should be implemented for the next five years at least, if not longer. The park has been under maintained for most of the 50 years that the city has owned the property. The park simply needs more attention to invasive control on a yearly basis. I believe that 2013 was the last year that there was a successful burn of a significant acreage of the park. Since 2013 burns have been canceled for the most part due to too wet or too dry conditions or the wind direction was not suitable. The few times burns were attempted the burns were not very effective due to wet ground conditions.

In reading the monthly conservation park work summaries provided to the Board of Park Commissioners, It seems that Cherokee Marsh gets the most attention. Turville Park has been rarely mentioned in the past year or so in these monthly reports.

#### **Annual Budget Estimate**

The annual Budget Estimate for Management Level 3 is \$58,000. What other work can be performed by volunteers to help keep down the costs associated with contracting with vendors? Can the city get any grant money from the state or Federal government to help offset costs of invasive control? In the winter of 2009 the Madison Parks Department received a \$10,000 grant from the Fish and Wildlife Service Private Lands Division This grant was used to fund intensive removal of buckthorn, honeysuckle and undesirable trees in 2010 and 2011.

#### **Mowing and mechanical brush removal**

Equipment needs to be thoroughly cleaned before and after use in the park to prevent dispersal of invasive seeds. Don't mow plants that are actively seeding. The mower will then spread the invasive seeds throughout the park wherever the machine goes. Seeds will stick to tires and in mowing apparatus and be continually released as the mower moves through the park.

Piles of brush and logs should be dealt with as soon as possible so that they do not detract from the natural beauty of the park. For trees that fall onto a trail in the park, use equipment to drag trees off the trail and leave them whole rather than cutting them up into piles that never get picked up. A fallen tree decomposing naturally in the park looks beautiful. Piles of cut brush and logs do not.

#### **Invasive control**

Need invasive awareness outreach to educate park users and surrounding neighborhoods regarding invasive identification and control. There are many properties surrounding Turville Park that harbor invasive infestations. These areas should be inventoried and contact should be made with land owners to educate them on invasive identification and control. City weed commissioners should patrol land areas near Olin-Turville Park to identify noxious weed infestations and notify the land owners of their responsibility to remove them.

Teasel is rapidly closing in on Turville Park. Unless real effort is made to control the teasel advance, it will be in the park within four years. The city needs to aggressively attack the teasel advancing towards Turville from the beltline. The city should work with Dane County to develop a plan to better manage teasel that is spreading from the beltline onto other properties in the city. Clean any equipment used on teasel management at the teasel infestation area before moving the equipment to another site to perform work.

Utilize volunteers to help identify and map the extent of various invasive plants in the park. Use GPS positioning to help create invasive map overlays for the park mapping database.

There is not a lot of poison ivy in the park. In fact, in the 50 years I have been using Turville Park 2017 was the first time I ever have seen it growing there. We should try hard to eradicate it to prevent its spread. I have given Paul Quinlan a map of Turville Park showing the area currently infested with poison ivy. The area is adjacent to a main ski/hiking trail and according to the Madison Parks' Land Management Plan (2017) should be "promptly removed" as it is within 10 feet of a trail.

Though elderberry is a native Wisconsin plant, it previously was not present in the park prior to around 2005. Elderberry has fairly aggressive growth habit and is taking over large areas of the woodlands. Control of elderberry should be considered.

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### **Management Level 3 (extensive restoration) Burn Schedule**

There has not been a decent burn of any significant amount of the woodland areas of Turville Park for over five years. The burn schedule needs to be more aggressive in the beginning two years and then taper back. This gives volunteers an edge on invasive control by significantly reducing brushy understory in an area to allow for better volunteer access in burned areas of the woodland areas.

#### **Areas that need to be burned ASAP that have not had a successful burn in over 5 years:**

- South Unit (north)
- South Unit (between trail and railroad tracks)
- North Unit
- West Unit
- Lakeshore

To help volunteers get a good start on invasive control this year a burn of significant acreage of the Turville woodlands would be a big help. In many areas invasive brush has become so thick that it is difficult to walk through when working on any invasive control efforts in that area.

Due to restrictions on allowable wind direction for burns, Turville should be given top priority in yearly burn scheduling to insure that designated units in the park are burned. Too often, volunteers have prepped for burns but the burn never happened due to wind conditions or that personnel were scheduled to burn a different park on a day that was perfect for Turville burn.

Need better coordination with volunteers for burn prep as well as assurances that every effort will be made for a successful Turville burn season. People will be more willing to volunteer in the future if they see successful burns take place after their efforts to prep for the burn.

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### **Appendix B. Species Lists**

Add list of plants that have been historically present in the past:

- Shooting stars
- Bloodroot
- Trillium

Add list of animals that are known to be present in Turville Park