

# Town of Middleton Parks and Conservancies

Management Activities Update year end 2018  
November 12, 2018

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ADAPTIVE  
RESTORATION  
LLC

# Items

- Natural areas update
- E-bikes
- Invasive Species Plans
- Looking ahead



# Conservancies update





## Settler's Prairie

- (development): Establish prairie in 1-acre strip along edge of soccer field, contiguous with prairie
- Treated over the summer to kill no-mow grass
- Dragged the soil, mixed seed with seeding medium (wood shavings), broadcast seeded
- Follow-up next year is essential
- (maintenance): spring prescribed burn of woodland; spot control of buckthorn resprouts, garlic mustard



# Settler's Prairie





## Noll Valley

- (maintenance): maintain diverse assemblage of remnant and seeded native species
- Spot weed management for garlic mustard, Japanese hedge parsley, reed canary grass, birdsfoot trefoil encroaching from conservancy edges
- Collected seed in fall 2018 for use in conservancy projects
- (Next year: prescribed burn)



# Goth Conservancy

- (maintenance): maintain diverse assemblage of remnant and seeded native species
- Spot weed management for garlic mustard, Japanese hedge parsley, reed canary grass, birdsfoot trefoil, black locust, Canada thistle
- Maintained east trail, maintained firebreaks
- Spring prescribed burn in prairies
- Planned: fall prescribed burn in woodland/savanna
- Overseed burned areas with seed donated by Dane County Parks/Ron Endres and FOPFC



# Cherrywood Forest



- (maintenance): continued garlic mustard, Canada thistle and burdock control efforts
- Year end recommended work: prescribed burn this fall if conditions allow.
- Why? Establish ideal ground conditions for overseeding with seed donated by Dane County Parks/Ron Endres and the FOPFC
- Increased usership expected – increased future investment in conservancy



# Pope Farm Park



- (maintenance): maintain diverse assemblage of remnant and seeded native species
- Spot weed management in all natural areas
- (Next year: prescribed burns in North and South prairies)
- Ravine: rain/flood impacts









## **Vegetation Management Plan Addendum for Pope Farm Conservancy**

**January 11, 2017**

**Prepared for: Town of Middleton Park Commission**

**Prepared by: Mike Healy and Stacey Marion, Adaptive Restoration LLC**

### ***Blackhawk Ravine***

- A. maintain ground layer of native wildflower (forb) and grasses
- B. maintain display of native shrubs
- C. minimize invasive species abundance and seed production; prioritize based on potential for negative impact and spread
- D. minimize erosion

# E-Bikes

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## THE ELECTRIC-BIKE CONUNDRUM

By Thomas Beller August 18, 2017





# E-Bikes

## 2018-2023 CONSERVANCY LANDS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF MIDDLETON





## BOX 8-1: WHAT ARE E-BIKES?

An electric bicycle (E-bike) is a type of motor bicycle with an electric motor. E-bikes have pedals and can be operated either by pedal power or motor power. The two main powering systems are pedal assist and power on demand. With a pedal assist system the electric motor is regulated by pedaling action. A power on demand system is activated by a handlebar throttle, similar to a motorcycle or moped.

E-bike use is governed by State laws.

In Wisconsin e-bikes are classified as “motor bicycles” and are regulated like bicycles if it meets the below listed criteria.

E-bikes meet the following criteria:

- Electric motor less than 750 watts
- Maximum speed less than 20 mph when operated solely on motor power, and
- Must have fully operational pedals, such that when the motor is completely off the bike can still be operated by pedal power.

State law dictates:

- Anyone operating an e-bike must possess a valid license but e-bikes are considered bicycles for vehicle registration purposes.
- E-bike riders must be at least 16 years of age.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed on shared use paths
- E-bikes are not allowed on bike paths (shared-use paths), unless are being used solely by human power
- In Wisconsin, persons using electric wheelchairs and mobility assistance scooters are considered pedestrians.

*Referenced state legislation: 343.05(3)(c), 343.07(4)(c), 343.08, 343.135, 346.02, 340.01(5s), 346.79(5), 346.94(12)*



# E-bikes

Dictated by federal and state law

Wisconsin state law dictates:

- Anyone operating an e-bike must possess a valid license but E-bikes are considered bicycles for vehicle registration purposes
- E-bike riders must be at least 16 years of age
- No motorized vehicles are allowed on shared use paths
- E-bikes are not allowed on bike paths (shared use paths), unless are being used solely by human power
- In Wisconsin, persons using electric wheelchairs and mobility assistance scooters are considered pedestrians



## Pros

- *Accessibility*
- *Age/ability*
- *Promote bike commuting*
- *Vast majority use safely*

## Cons

- *Speed up to 20 mph*
- *Some evidence of higher rate of crashes/near-crashes*
- *Heavier than regular bicycle, greater injury risk during crash*



# E-bike resources

- Neighboring communities:
- City of Middleton Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry
- City of Madison Traffic Engineering
- People for bikes
- Wisconsin Bike Fed







# Invasive Species Plans

- Town approached us with concern



Envirolok, native vegetated mats

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