

CONSERVANCY LANDS OPERATIONS

DRAFT

The management of conservancy lands is not linked to one single entity, but rather is a coordinated effort between City departments, advisory committees and commissions, Friends Groups, and volunteers.

PUBLIC LANDS ORGANIZATION

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

The responsible department for management and policy decisions pertaining to public lands is primarily Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry (PLRF). PLRF oversees Middleton's parks, recreation, urban forestry and conservancy lands systems. Staff resources are generally divided between recreation and public lands. The public lands department is responsible for park and conservancy land management, and staff resources are often shared between parks and conservancy lands.

Staffing Levels

The Director of Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry oversees the park and conservancy land system and recreation programs. The Assistant Director of PLRF/Forester/Horticulturist and the Public Lands Lead Supervisor oversee public lands operations and management tasks. Daily operations are performed by a full-time Conservancy Lands Lead Crewperson, one Parks Lead Crewperson and three Park Crewpersons. Two Conservancy Lands dedicated LTE's (0.6 FTE), six Parks dedicated LTE's (1.75 FTE), and five Department of Corrections crew (DOCC) members are available seasonally (Figure 5-1).

Conservancy lands and parks staff are often utilized jointly for conservancy and park land maintenance tasks. The Parks Lead Crewperson and Parks Crewpersons, however, are primarily dedicated for park land and forestry. Additionally, the Parks LTE's are solely dedicated for parks maintenance, specifically active parks and sports fields. Conservancy Lands dedicated LTE's (up to 0.6 FTE) are utilized when qualified candidates are available. In 2017, no Conservancy Lands LTE's were hired due to a lack of suitable candidates.

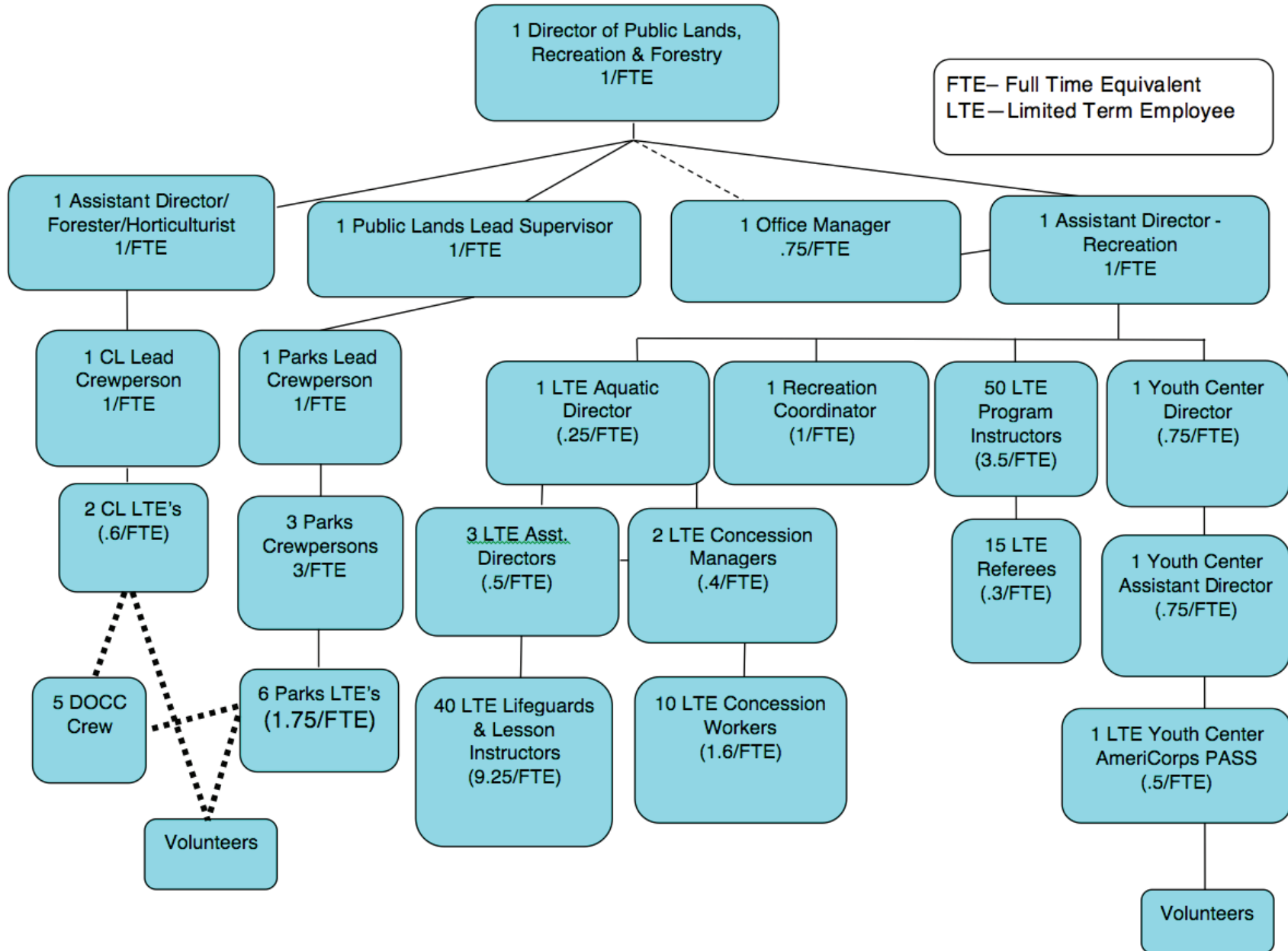


Figure 5-1. Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry Department Organization Chart. Source: City of Middleton, 1/10/2018.

The DOCC from Oakhill Correctional Institution (Oregon, WI) typically contains four inmates and one sergeant. A City staff leads the crew. Involvement in conservancy lands management has changed within the last five years; shifting away from conservancy lands in recent years. Crew time is split between parks, public works, forestry, conservancy lands, and other. In 2017 the DOCC worked on 49 projects (distinct billing designations). About 30% of work was Conservancy lands-specific, 27% was Parks-specific, 16% was Forestry-specific, and the remaining 27% was other, such as Community Development projects and Capital improvement projects. For Conservancy Lands projects, 13 project items were funded through CLC operating expenses, and 2 DOCC project items were funded through the CLC Capital budget.

Current staffing levels are insufficient to adequately manage conservancy lands. Thus, contractors and volunteers additionally support management of conservancy lands. Contractors provide scientific and technical expertise relevant to conservancy lands management. Professional services provided by contractors include, but are not limited to, native vegetation establishment and maintenance, monitoring of State Threatened and Endangered species, streambank stabilization and restoration, wetland delineation, prescribed burning, development of conservancy area Master Plans, and volunteer facilitation and outreach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should opportunities arise for personnel change, consider hiring an additional full-time conservancy lands-dedicated staff with knowledge in land stewardship, native plant management, ecology, wildlife management, environmental education, and/or volunteer coordination.

Perform a cost/benefit analysis of the utilization of limited-term employment compared to full-time equivalent staff. Consider factors related to work output including level of knowledge and competency, level of required training, and level of required supervision.

PUBLIC LANDS POLICY

The Department of Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry (PLRF) follows recommendations put forth by three advisory committees within the City government, subject to the final authority of the Common Council: The Conservancy Lands Committee (CLC), the Water Resources Management Commission (WRMC), and the Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission (PRFC). Recommendations pertinent to conservancy lands are primarily provided by the CLC and WRMC.

CONSERVANCY LANDS POLICY

Conservancy Lands Committee (CLC)

The CLC is the main governing body that reviews and guides management recommendations regarding conservancy lands.

As detailed in Section 2.16 Middleton Code of Ordinances, the CLC shall consist of seven members including the Chair of the PRFC (or someone appointed by the Chair), the Chair of the WRMC (or someone appointed by the Chair), the Chair of the Public Works Committee (or someone appointed by the Chair), one Alderperson, two citizens who are residents of the City of Middleton, one of whom possesses expertise in engineering or land conservation and one of whom shall express concern and ability to work in attaining land conservation objectives in the public interest, and one citizen who is not required to be a resident of the City of Middleton. The committee chairs are automatic members on the CLC board, all others are appointed by the Mayor.

The CLC's mission is to further the City's interest in management of its community forests, fields and wetlands for conservation purposes. The CLC also makes policy recommendations and is responsible for studying all land conservation issues affecting City of Middleton lands designated as conservancy. The CLC is charged with planning and implementing programs that are designed to restore and enhance such lands in order to accomplish ecological restoration, improve natural scenic beauty, and provide opportunities for education and recreation for the residents of Middleton. The CLC recommends approval of an annual budget prepared by staff to the Common Council

to cover anticipated expenses required to fulfill its objectives. It will also consult with similar bodies from neighboring cities, towns and the county to develop a regional response to issues surrounding land conservation.

The Committee has use of the facilities of the Public Works Department and Planning Office of the City and may appoint such technical sub-committees as it deems necessary to assist in its planning functions, provided that all sub-committee appointments are first submitted to and approved by the Mayor, and may propose to the Common Council an annual budget to cover the anticipated expenditures believed necessary to carry out its objectives.

Water Resources Management Commission (WRMC)

As detailed in Section 2.05 Middleton Code of Ordinances, shall consist of seven members, including the Chair of the PRFC (or someone appointed by the Chair), one Alderperson and five citizen members. The committee chairs are automatic members on the CLC board, all others are appointed by the Mayor.

The mission of this committee is to study, plan and implement programs involving the management of water resources both within and, where possible, beyond the corporate limits of the City of Middleton. All specific and related storm drainage, flood control, flood plain, stream, lake and shoreline projects and improvements which affect or may affect the City of Middleton or its residents shall be reviewed and analyzed by the Commission and its conclusions transmitted to the Common Council. This committee's decisions have the potential to impact conservancy lands that contain water features, especially the kettle ponds and detention ponds.

The Commission has use of the facilities of the Public Works Department and Planning Office of the City and may appoint such technical sub-committees as it deems necessary to assist in its planning functions, provided that all sub-committee appointments are first submitted to and approved by the Mayor, and may propose to the Common Council an annual budget to cover the anticipated expenditures believed necessary to carry out its objectives.

JOINT MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVANCY LANDS

The conservancy lands system is impacted by decisions and actions made by multiple Middleton departments and advisory committees in addition to the PLRF Department, CLC and WRMC.

Board of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commissioners

The PRFC oversees park facilities, recreation programs, and forested areas of the City. Middleton's active use park facilities total approximately 156 acres, according to the (2014-2019) Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan.

Many of Middleton's parks border conservancy lands, and Middleton's trail system is often contiguous between park and conservancy lands.

The PRFC provides, conducts and supervises public playgrounds, playfields, indoor recreation centers and other recreation areas and facilities owned or controlled by the City, and conducts recreational and cultural activities. The PRFC consists of seven members, including one Alderperson and six citizens. All members are appointed by the Mayor. Duties and authorities are described in Section 2.10 Middleton Code of Ordinances.

Department of Public Works (DPW)

Conservancy lands areas with water resources that function as storm water facilities are jointly managed by the department of Public Works (DPW) and PLRF. The WRMC is the advisory committee to DPW regarding maintenance of storm water facilities on conservancy lands. Conservancy areas jointly managed include: Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor, North Fork of the Pheasant Branch Creek, South Fork of the Pheasant Branch Creek, Pheasant Branch Ridge Drainageway, Middleton Hills Wetland unit of the Middleton Hills Conservancy, Stonefield Conservancy, Shorecrest Detention Pond, Spring Hill Detention Pond, detention ponds in Hidden Oaks, and detention ponds in Orchid Heights Conservancy, and the Metropolitan Refuse District.

Storm Water Utility Board

The Common Council approved a Storm Water Utility in 2014 with the purpose of creating a dedicated funding mechanism for maintaining the City's storm water management system. A Storm Water Utility Board was concurrently formed to oversee the Storm Water Utility.

As detailed in Section 2.32 Middleton Code of Ordinances, the Storm Water Utility Board shall consist of seven members including three members recommended by the Water Resources Commission from the membership of that Commission; one member recommended by the Public Works Committee from the membership of that Committee; one member recommended by the Finance Committee from the membership of that Committee; one member recommended by the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission from the membership of that Commission; one member recommended by the Conservancy Land Committee from the membership of that Committee.

The Storm Water Utility Board is responsible for the charge, management and supervision of the Storm Water Utility, pursuant to the provisions of Section 9.09 Middleton Code of Ordinances (Box 5-1). Storm Water Utility revenue is used for storm water utility expenses including all operation and maintenance costs, cost of borrowing, planning costs and other costs related to the operation of the City of Middleton Storm Water Utility.

BOX 5-1: MIDDLETON CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 9.09 STORM WATER UTILITY*9.01 Storm Water Utility*

(1) Purpose. The Common Council finds that the management of storm water and other surface water discharges draining to the Pheasant Branch, Esser Pond,

Stricker Pond, Tiedeman Pond, Graber Pond, Dorn Creek, Black Earth Creek, and Lake Mendota is a matter that affects the health, safety and welfare of the City, its citizens and businesses and others in the surrounding area. In addition, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have implemented standards for storm water management that will require significant upgrades to the existing storm water practices of the City, as well as increased costs for complying with these standards. Failure to effectively manage storm water affects the sanitary sewer utility operations of the City by, among other things, increasing the likelihood of infiltration and inflow into the sanitary sewer system. Surface water runoff may cause erosion of lands, threaten residences and businesses with water damage, and create environmental damage to the rivers, streams and other bodies of water within and adjacent to the City. A system for the collection and disposal of storm water provides services to all properties within the City and surrounding areas including properties not currently served by the systems. The cost of operating and maintaining the City storm water management system and financing necessary repairs, replacements, improvements and extensions thereof should, to the extent practicable, be allocated in relationship to the services received from the system. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, the Common Council hereby exercises its authority to establish a storm water utility and establish the rates for storm water management services, adopting and publishing as required by law the regulations contained in this Section. The City is acting pursuant to the authority granted by Wis. Stats. § 66.0821.

9.09 (3): Subject to the approval of the Common Council, the Storm Water Utility shall have the power and authority to operate and maintain major storm water management facilities, and to conduct, manage, and finance such utilities, operations and activities as the Storm Water Utility Board deems to be proper and reasonably necessary for a system of storm water and surface water management. These facilities may include, without limitation due to enumeration, surface and underground drainage facilities, sewers, watercourses, retaining walls, ponds, streets, roads, ditches and such other facilities relating to collection, runoff, detention and retention. This includes facilities that will support a storm water management system, whether such facilities are owned and operated directly by the City or are provided under statutory or contractual provisions and furnishing of which facilities create or impose a cost or charge upon the City for the services afforded by such facilities.

Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Committee

As detailed in Section 2.31 Middleton Code of Ordinances, the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Committee shall research, investigate and advise other City Committees, Commissions and the Common Council on issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian safety, on-street and off-street bicycle accommodations, transit operations and potential service changes, mobility issues relating to youth, seniors and the disabled community and implementation of and updates to the City of Middleton Bike and Pedestrian Plan.

The Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Committee consists of seven members including: one Alderperson, the Plan Commission Chairperson or designee, the Public Works Committee Chairperson or designee, the Committee on Aging Chairperson or designee, one representative of the Middleton-Cross Plains School District, and an additional two members. Four of the members must be citizens. One member shall have transit experience and one member shall have handicap/pedestrian experience.

There is currently no representation of the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Committee on CLC despite shared interest in bicycle and pedestrian recreation and trail facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Coordinate with the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Committee on issues related to trail use policy and trail connectivity.

1) Middleton's Bike and Pedestrian Plan has not been updated since 2009. The next iteration of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan should consider studying areas of high bike/pedestrian interface and propose alternatives to minimize negative interactions between bikers and pedestrians. Consider multiple types of bike users (multiple speeds) and multiple types of pedestrians. Use public input gathered in the public input process for this Plan. Promote etiquette between user groups through educational campaigns, signage, or other methods.

2) Coordinate with the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Committee to promote increased connectivity of trails and bike paths within the City and to regional trails.

3) Consider adding a Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Committee representative to CLC.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers provide a great contribution to Middleton's conservancy lands through active restoration work, education and outreach. Volunteers must follow the City's Public Lands Volunteer Program Guidelines that require submitting a release of liability and indemnification form prior to participating in volunteer activities on public lands.

Volunteer Contributions in Conservancy Lands

The contribution of volunteers over the last five years is difficult to determine given irregular documentation. The City does not have a designated staff person responsible for coordinating volunteer events, and instead, facilitating groups such as the Friends of Pheasant Branch, Clean Lakes Alliance, Bock Community Gardeners, and consultants often provide volunteer event coordination services and documentation of events.

Volunteer contributions for restoration work in conservancy lands exceeds 900 hours annually 2015-2017 (Tables 5-1, 5-2, 5-3). These estimates often do not account for administrative volunteer efforts. Known contracted time for coordinating and facilitating volunteer events ranges 55-86 hours annually.

Of the 419 respondents to the Conservancy Lands Plan Update Survey, 25% of respondents indicated that they had volunteered in Middleton's conservancy lands in the past year (Figure 5-2). Of survey respondents who indicated that they had volunteered, 75% listed volunteering with an organized group, Friends Group, or through their workplace.

Multiple organizations volunteered in conservancy lands in 2017 including the Friends of Pheasant Branch, Friends of Kettle Ponds, Bock Community Gardeners, Madison Cross Plains Area School District, Madison Audubon, Middleton Kiwanis, Blackhawk Ski Club, United Way, CUNA Mutual Group, Clean Lakes Alliance, Capital Off Road Pathfinders (CORP), and the Boy Scouts, as self-reported on the Conservancy Lands Plan Update Survey.

Survey respondents who indicated volunteering in the past year but not through a Friends Group, organized group, or workplace selected that they volunteered, "on [their] own". Volunteers who wish to work on their own can do so by following the City's Public Lands Volunteer Program Guidelines and receiving permission and guidance from the Director of Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry.

Friends Groups

A Friends Group is a designation given to a group who has a formal agreement with the City of Middleton. Friends Groups supporting public lands must have a resolution approved by the Common Council, CLC, and Director of Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry. The Friends of Pheasant Branch and the Friends of Kettle Ponds support conservancy lands.

Descriptions of Friends Groups and past partnerships are detailed in the 2011-2016 Conservancy Lands Plan¹⁸. Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry staff expect continued and increased coordination with Middleton's Friends Groups. The Friends of Pheasant Branch and Friends of Kettle Ponds participated in the public input process for this Plan (Chapter 4). The Friends of Pheasant Branch contributed over 3,000 volunteer hours in the larger Pheasant Branch Conservancy in 2017. The efforts of the Friends of Pheasant Branch have an immense positive impact on Middleton's conservancy system. For more information on restoration, grant seeking efforts, education, outreach, and other initiatives of the Friends of Pheasant Branch, visit www.pheasantbranch.org.

18 Schreiber Anderson Associates. 2010. Conservancy Lands Plan 2010-2016. Madison, WI

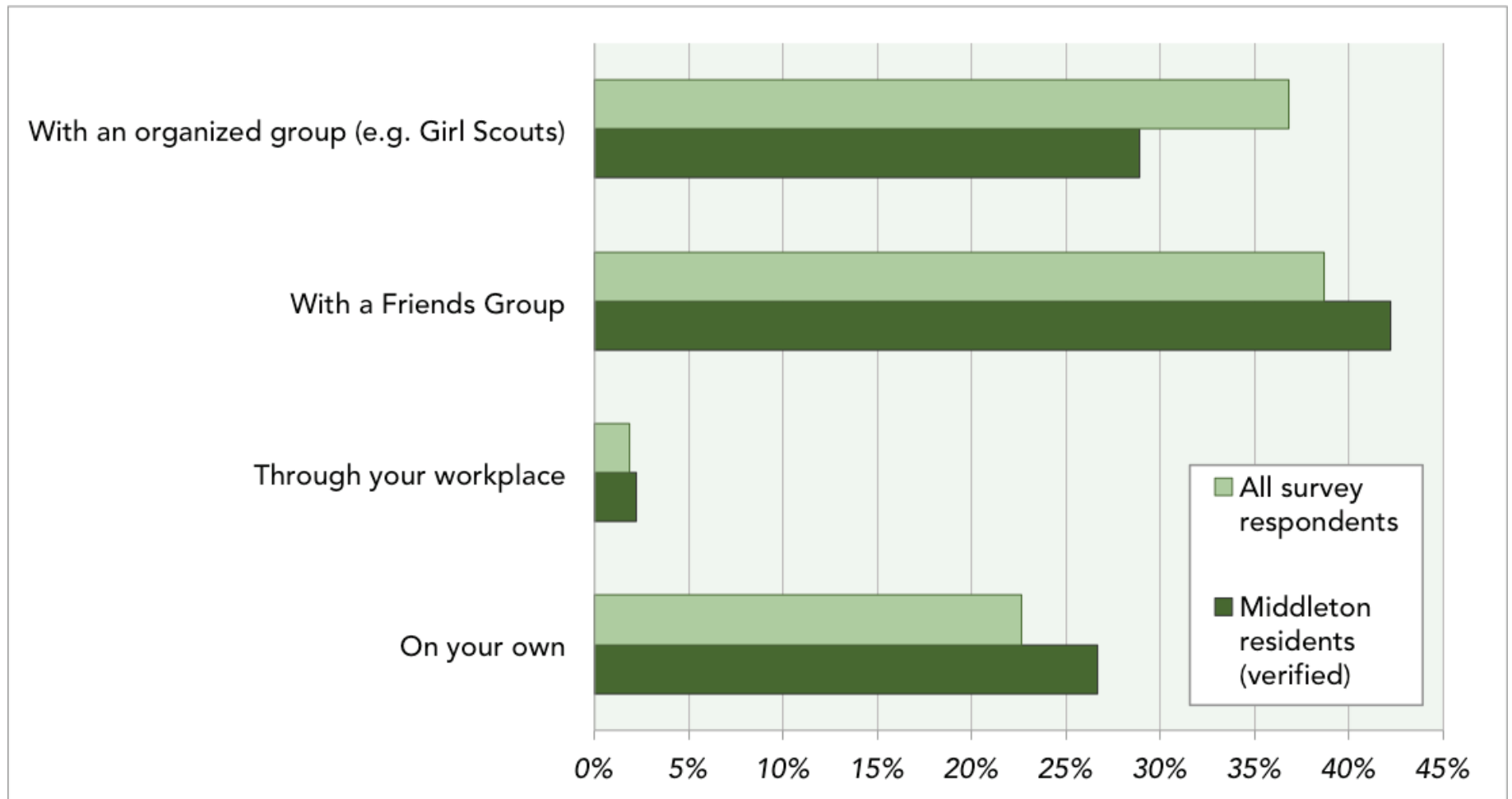


Figure 5-2. Mechanism of volunteer participation in 2017 for respondents of the Conservancy Lands Plan Update Survey, 2018. Responses for total survey respondents and verified Middleton residents (registered voters) are displayed separately. Respondents could select one response.

Table 5-1. Estimated Volunteer Contributions in Middleton's Conservancy Lands, 2017.

AREA	ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATING GROUP	EVENT COORDINATED WITH:	HOURS*
Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor	Removed invasive buckthorn, garlic mustard, and Dame's Rocket	Spectrum Brands	Clean Lakes Alliance	145
Bock Community Forest	Learned about native and invasive weed identification, pulled non-prairie species in the prairie section	CUNA Mutual Group	Clean Lakes Alliance	24
Bock Community Forest	Learned about native and invasive weed identification, pulled non-prairie species in the prairie section	Westside Christian School	Friends of Pheasant Branch	36
Bock Community Forest	Learned about native and invasive weed identification, pulled non-prairie species in the prairie section	MATC	Friends of Pheasant Branch	20
Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor	Creek maintenance	USGS	--	100
Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor	Pulled garlic mustard	Kromrey Middle School	MCPASD	78
Lakeview Park/Conservancy	Trash clean-up	Cub Pack 240, Boyscout Troup 940, Optimist Club, Kiwanis Club	--	50
Bock Community Forest	Volunteer work sessions with Bock Community Gardeners: includes invasive species removal, native seed collecting, upkeep of native tree and shrub nursery and native plant garden, transplanting	Bock Community Gardeners, Friends of Pheasant Branch	Bock Community Garden	145
Bock Community Forest	320 Kromrey third and eighth grade students service trip involved overseeding prairie and savanna areas at "Bock" using seed collecting by City staff and seed donated from Dane County Parks	Kromrey Middle School	MCPASD	320
Middleton Bike Park	CORP volunteers perform extensive mountain bike trail maintenance throughout the year	Capital Off-Road Pathfinders (CORP)	--	49
Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Rock River Coalition and USGS coordinate stream monitoring with volunteers	Friends of Pheasant Branch	USGS	15
Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Rock River Coalition and USGS coordinate stream monitoring with volunteers	Friends of Pheasant Branch	Rock River Coalition	50
Total				1,032
Estimated contracted hours with a consultant, assistance includes: coordinating and planning volunteer events with City staff, Friends groups, nonprofits, and other interested groups; materials preparation for events; and facilitating and leading volunteer events.				69

*Estimated on-the-ground volunteer hours. Does not account for administrative task contributions.

Table 5-2. Estimated Volunteer Contributions in Middleton's Conservancy Lands, 2016.

AREA	ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATING GROUP	EVENT COORDINATED WITH:	HOURS*
Bock Community Forest	Learned about native and invasive weed identification, removed non-prairie species in the prairie, savanna, and woodland sections	Spectrum Brands	Clean Lakes Alliance	248
Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor	Creek maintenance	USGS	--	10
Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor	Pulled garlic mustard	Kromrey Middle School	MCPASD	50
Lakeview Park/Conservancy	Trash clean-up	Club Pack 240, Boyscout Troup 940, Optimist Club, Kiwanis Club	--	40
Bock Community Forest	Volunteer work sessions with Bock Community Gardeners: includes invasive species removal, native seed collecting, upkeep of native tree and shrub nursery and native plant garden, transplanting	Bock Community Gardeners, Friends of Pheasant Branch	Bock Community Garden	145
Bock Community Forest	320 Kromrey third and eighth grade students service trip involved overseeding prairie and savanna areas at "Bock" using seed collecting by City staff and seed donated from Dane County Parks	Kromrey Middle School	MCPASD	320
Middleton Bike Park	CORP volunteers perform extensive mountain bike trail maintenance throughout the year	Capital Off-Road Pathfinders (CORP)	--	29
Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Rock River Coalition and USGS coordinate stream monitoring with volunteers	Friends of Pheasant Branch	USGS	15
Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Rock River Coalition and USGS coordinate stream monitoring with volunteers	Friends of Pheasant Branch	Rock River Coalition	50
Total				907
Estimated contracted hours with a consultant, assistance includes: coordinating and planning volunteer events with City staff, Friends groups, nonprofits, and other interested groups; materials preparation for events; and facilitating and leading volunteer events.				55

*Estimated on-the-ground volunteer hours. Does not account for administrative task contributions.

Table 5-3. Estimated Volunteer Contributions in Middleton's Conservancy Lands, 2015

AREA	ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATING GROUP	EVENT COORDINATED WITH:	HOURS*
Bock Community Forest	Learned about native and invasive weed identification, removed non-prairie species in the prairie, savanna, and woodland sections	CUNA Mutual Group, Exact Sciences, Friends of Pheasant Branch	Clean Lakes Alliance, Friends of Pheasant Branch	76
Bock Community Forest	Volunteer work sessions with Bock Community Gardeners: includes invasive species removal, native seed collecting, upkeep of native tree and shrub nursery and native plant garden, transplanting	CUNA Mutual Group	Clean Lakes Alliance	145
Bock Community Forest/ Pheasant Branch Conservancy	An Eagle Scout helped build a natural surface trail through the oak woodland at Bock Community Forest	Eagle Scout	--	100
Bock Community Forest	320 Kromrey third and eighth grade students service trip involved overseeding prairie and savanna areas at "Bock" using seed collecting by City staff and seed donated from Dane County Parks	Kromrey Middle School	MCPASD	320
Middleton Bike Park	CORP volunteers perform extensive mountain bike trail maintenance throughout the year	Capital Off-Road Pathfinders (CORP)	--	184
Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Rock River Coalition and USGS coordinate stream monitoring with volunteers	Friends of Pheasant Branch	USGS	25
Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Rock River Coalition and USGS coordinate stream monitoring with volunteers	Friends of Pheasant Branch	Rock River Coalition	50
Total				900
Estimated contracted hours with a consultant, assistance includes: coordinating and planning volunteer events with City staff, Friends groups, nonprofits, and other interested groups; materials preparation for events; and facilitating and leading volunteer events.				86

*Estimated on-the-ground volunteer hours. Does not account for administrative task contributions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue partnerships with Clean Lakes Alliance, Friends of Pheasant Branch, Bock Community Gardeners, and Rock River Coalition. Consider creating a volunteering coordinating committee with facilitating groups.

Use Capra accreditation standards for volunteering management as a model for Middleton's volunteer management (Appendix C). Improve documentation and evaluation of volunteer events.

Create a process for training and orienting volunteers. Encourage regular volunteers. Create standard operating procedures for work in conservancy lands (e.g. hand weeding, plant identification, brush removal, seed collecting) that can be shared with volunteers.

Create an online database of volunteers and create an online version of the Public Lands Volunteer Program Guidelines release of liability and indemnification forms. Use the volunteer database as a mechanism of accountability and documentation of work performed.

Consider sending thank-you's and feedback requests to volunteers and/or hosting an annual volunteer gratitude event. (Clean Lakes Alliances provides thank-you's and feedback requests to participants in their events).

Should opportunities arise for personnel change, consider hiring an additional full-time conservancy lands-dedicated staff with knowledge in land stewardship, native plant management, ecology, wildlife management, environmental education, and/or volunteer coordination.



Conservancy Lands Plan 2018-2023



CONSERVANCY LANDS OPERATIONS

Conservancy Lands has an annual operating budget and a capital projects budget for management and enhancement of the conservancy system. The operating budget is used for routine expenses, whereas the capital projects budget is used for non-routine improvement projects. Capital projects typically have a longer lifespan (10 years or greater) and a minimum project cost of \$5,000.

Although Conservancy Lands is the primary mechanism for maintenance and management of the conservancy system, some operational expenses and capital expenditures related to the conservancy system are funded by other sources. For example, storm water facilities on conservancy lands are managed by the Department of Public Works, and dredging of ponds is a Storm Water Utility expense. Major capital improvement projects may be the responsibility of the Planning department, such as the acquisition of land for the Pheasant Branch Conservancy Trailhead in 2018 using Tax Increment Financing.

Management of conservancy lands is discussed in Chapters 7 and 8.

Conservancy Lands Operating Budget

Conservancy lands operational expenses include routine maintenance expenses and personnel expenses. CLC personnel expenses are limited to LTE assignments and some DOCC designations (Table 5-4). In 2017, 13 of 15 DOCC designations were funded through the CLC operating budget. The average cost for the DOCC is approximately \$3,015 for four inmates and one sergeant for a two-week period. Operational maintenance tasks include a variety of land management activities, trail maintenance expenses, grants assistance, and other operating expenses (Table 5-4). A description of operating budget expenditures was modified from the 2011-2016 Conservancy Lands Plan (Table 5-5).

Table 5-4. Conservancy Lands Operating Budget, 2011-2017. Source: City of Middleton, 2018

ITEM	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2012 ACTUAL	2013 BUDGET	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2014 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET
LTE's	--*	--	--	\$12,400	--	\$12,400	--	\$32,400	\$31,423	\$22,420	\$19,622	--
FICA (personnel benefits)	--	--	--	\$950	--	\$1,898	--	\$949	\$2,028	\$1,715	\$1,410	--
Pond Restoration Expenses	--	--	--	\$9,000	--	\$3,841	--	\$9,540	\$7,189	\$9,540	\$5,299	\$9,540
Creek Maintenance	--	--	--	\$10,500	--	\$3,429	--	\$10,500	\$4,001	\$10,500	\$7,056	\$10,500
Trail Maintenance Expenses	--	--	--	\$19,000	--	\$19,000	--	\$19,000	\$15,291	\$21,144	\$22,152	\$21,144
Grant Match/ Assistance	--	--	--	\$5,000	--	\$5,000	--	\$5,000	\$3,941	\$5,000	\$3,385	\$5,000
Deer Management Grant	--	--	--	\$5,000	--	\$5,000	--	\$5,000	\$3,912	\$5,000	\$2,784	\$5,000
Invasive Species Control	--	--	--	--	--	\$45,000	--	\$65,000	\$42,827	\$65,000	\$63,701	\$65,000
Other Operating Expenses	--	--	--	\$13,400	--	\$28,400	--	\$28,400	\$13,360	\$28,400	\$19,664	\$28,400
TOTAL	\$60,304	\$75,250	\$39,496	\$75,250	\$117,997	\$123,968	\$134,792	\$175,789	\$123,972	\$168,719	\$145,073	\$144,584

*Data not available

Table 5-5. Conservancy Lands Operating Budget Item Descriptions¹⁹.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
LTE's	Labor: Limited Term Employee (LTE) assigned perform general unskilled labor for conservancy lands areas under the direction of the Director of Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry.
FICA	Personnel benefits.
Pond Restoration Expenses	Represents land management activities surrounding the glacial kettle ponds, including but not limited to restoration planning, restoration mowing and weed control, seeding and aquatic planting, prescribed burning, interpretive signage, trail development, and maintenance and dissemination of public information materials.
Creek Maintenance	Includes tree and debris removal from creek corridor areas, installation of erosion control features and restoration by staff and/or contracted services.
Trail Maintenance Expenses	Includes all supplies and services related to performing general trail maintenance, including purchased surface materials, trail markers, herbicide, geo-synthetic materials, grading and compacting of trail surfaces, maintenance and installation of trail surface materials, access gate materials and interpretive materials.
Grant Match/Assistance	Represents monies set aside for any/all conservancy lands grant application funds for operating type materials including trees, shrubs, plant materials, trail surface materials, signage and/or professional services for grant applications or provisions.
Deer Management Grant	Funds allocated specifically for the DNR Urban Wildlife Abatement Grant Funds, a 50/50-match program to assist communities with urban deer management goals and objectives.
Invasive Species Control	Land management activities related to removal of non-native invasive species, non-desirable vegetation for the purpose of limiting the extent of invasive species, protecting and maintaining remnant and restored native plant communities. Activities include but are not limited to: herbicide application, mowing, seeding, planting, brush and tree removal, prescribed burning, signage, maintenance and dissemination of public information materials. By staff and/or contracted services.
Other Operating Expenses	A general fund for any/all unforeseen operating expenditures not covered by other operating items.

¹⁹ Schreiber Anderson Associates (2010)

Conservancy Lands Capital Budget

Capital improvement projects are major improvements that typically have a lifespan of 10 years or greater and a minimum project cost of \$5,000. Capital funds are used for facility improvements (e.g. trails, bridges, boardwalks, overlooks, interpretive signs, kiosks), restoration projects, plans (e.g. Management Plans/Master Plans and study projects), and acquisitions.

Capital budget totals for Conservancy Lands from 2017 included: Conservancy Lands Master Plan (\$20,000), Bock Community Forest – Restoration Management (\$30,000, 50% match), and City Trail Network Development and Enhancement (\$209,175; Table 5-6).

Our proposed capital improvement projects for 2018-2023 include acquisitions, facilities and equipment improvements, recommends restoration priorities, and outlines a schedule for Master Plan/Management Plan projects (Table 5-7).

Acquisition of new conservancy land should be a priority when the opportunity arises. Areas of potential future acquisition include the greenway corridor to the north and northeast of Middleton, a trail corridor around South Pond, lands to the east and west of Graber Pond, and expansion of the Graber Pond Trail.

Prioritization of improvements and restoration priorities are based on the following criteria:

- Priority ranking of conservancies based on our Prioritization Matrix (Chapter 6)
- Past investment in a project, past grant award, and past and/or current support from partners
- Project was recommended in past Capital Improvement Plans
- Input from PLRF staff

Prioritization for needing a master plan is based on past master plans and vegetation quality (Table 5-10). Each conservancy should have a dedicated master plan, and master plans should be used to inform future Capital Improvement Plans.

Projected trail rehabilitation capital projects are based on pavement condition ratings (Table 5-8). Trail re-paving capital requests should be shifted to the Pedestrian, Bicycle & Transit Committee, as this committee is responsible for new path development requests. This would align funding requests for path development and subsequent path maintenance. Trails, trail maintenance, and trail pavement ratings are discussed further in Chapter 8.

Some improvements that occur on or influence conservancy lands are supported by capital improvement funds outside of Conservancy Lands. Although the CLC is not directly involved, PLRF staff often provide input on these project proposals. Capital projects supported by outside funding sources are listed in Table 5-9.

CONSERVANCY LANDS GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Grants and donations are instrumental in the protection, development, and restoration of Middleton's conservancy lands and trails. Grants and donations received for public lands (parks and conservancies) between 2002 and 2010 are recorded in the 2011-2016 Conservancy Lands Plan²⁰. Table 5-11 itemizes grants received specific to conservancy lands, streambank restoration, and storm water management 2011-2017.

Major donations in the last five years include \$15,000 annually 2013-2017 from the Friends of Pheasant Branch for restoration of John C. Bock Community Forest prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland areas (50% City match). Continued donations are expected in 2018 and 2019.

Middleton utilizes the WDNR's Environmental Loans. These loan programs combine federal grants and state funding (Department of Administration and WDNR) to provide subsidized loans. Municipalities are eligible for funding through principal forgiveness. The Clean Water Fund Program provides financial assistance specifically for wastewater and storm water infrastructure projects.

In 2011, Middleton received Clean Water Fund assistance for the Pheasant Branch Creek Streambank Stabilization project for a 1000-foot segment of the creek between Park Street and Century Ave. The project used ecologically-sensitive techniques to stabilize eroded banks and slopes resulting from increased storm water inputs into the Pheasant Branch Creek. Total project cost was \$149,000.

Middleton Area Public Lands Endowment

The Middleton Area Public Lands Endowment (MAPLE) fund was established in 2017 as a mechanism of supporting Middleton's public lands and public trail system (Box 5-2).

BOX 5-2: MIDDLETON AREA PUBLIC LANDS ENDOWMENT (MAPLE)

The Middleton Area Public Lands Endowment (MAPLE) was established in 2017, independent of City government, and consists of a volunteer citizen board. These volunteers are dedicated to generating funds to grow an endowment for the enhancement of public lands in the greater Middleton area.

MISSION

The Middleton Area Public Lands Endowment (MAPLE) serves to support, expand, and enhance the City of Middleton's vision of conservancy lands, forestry, parks and recreation, and trails for all.

The Middleton Area Public Lands Endowment Fund:

- Grows a permanent endowment and fosters philanthropy
- Partners with other community groups
- Does not supplant the normal City budget
- Serves a dynamic and diverse community

The Maple Board seeks gifts from individuals and companies who value public lands in our community. Contributions can be made for specific projects or for permanent investment into the Endowment for long-term growth through our partnership with the Madison Community Foundation.

There are many ways to make a tax-deductible contribution to MAPLE through the Madison Community Foundation (MCF). Gifts may be made in the donor's name, anonymously, or in honor of an individual. In addition to cash or checks, credit card gifts and electronic fund transfers (EFT) are all available. Also, securities, life insurance, retirement accounts, charitable gift annuities, and real estate can also be given. For details, go to www.madisongives.org and find MAPLE under their non-profit searchable list.

Contributed by Kelly Hilyard



²⁰ Schreiber Anderson Associates (2010)

COMPARISON OF RESOURCES

To benchmark Middleton's conservancy lands stewardship with other Dane County municipalities, we contacted land managers at the City of Madison, City of Fitchburg, and Village of DeForest to gather information about their respective conservancy lands systems (Table 5-12).

Although the comparison of resources helps provide context for Middleton's efforts, we caution against making direct comparisons. These municipalities have a varying amount of conservancy lands maintained by other entities, such as the WDNR or Dane County Parks. Similarly many adjacent communities have interjurisdictional trails. The extent of trails and lands is often unknown or estimated.

In some cases, funds allocated for conservancy areas and conservation parks are not segregated from the general parks, forestry and/or trails budget for each municipality. For example, City of Madison's Engineering division is responsible for development and maintenance of the city's paved bike trails.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Each conservancy should have a dedicated Management Plan/Master Plan. A Master Plan should have a minimum lifespan of 10 years but no longer than 25 years. Addendums may be appropriate if site conditions change significantly within 10 years of writing a Master Plan. Changes in site conditions include: change in extent of boundary, significant change in vegetation (e.g. restored to native community), stakeholder and/or partner involvement, or other unforeseen changes.

Acquisition of conservancy lands should be a priority when the opportunity exists. Potential areas for acquisition include but are not limited to: the continuation of an urban greenway to the north and northeast of Middleton, a trail corridor around South Pond, and expansion of the Graber Pond Trail as development continues to east and west of Graber Pond.

Continue pursuit of state, federal and private funding. Grant seeking can be performed internally or by knowledgeable contractors.

Maintain a grants database relevant to public lands, and conservancy lands specifically. Include an updated database of available grants, a grant calendar with important grant deadlines, a database of grants applied for, and a database of grant received (grant amount, project, length of project/funds, annual carryover, and % City match).

Maintain database of donations received to public lands, and conservancy lands specifically.

Paved trail maintenance capital project requests should come from the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Committee. This would align requests for new path development with trail maintenance. PLRF should oversee the contractors completing work.

Projects related to storm water management should be the responsibility of the Public Works Department. Recommended capital projects include: Tiedeman Pond pump replacement and feasibility study and storm water abatement plan, Stricker and Tiedeman Pond Storm water detention pond, Tiedeman Pond dredging near sewer grate, and dredging of Tiedeman pond forebays.

Table 5-6. Conservancy Lands Capital Budget, 2013-2017

PROJECT	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET	CARRY-OVER INTO 2015	2015 BUDGET	CARRY-OVER INTO 2016	2016 BUDGET	CARRY-OVER INTO 2017	2017 BUDGET
City Trail Network Development	\$67,500			\$57,000		\$140,000	\$46,937	\$209,175
Bock Community Forest	\$30,000*	\$30,000*		\$30,000*		\$30,000*		\$30,000*
PBC Streambank Restoration	\$25,000	\$235,400*	\$159,104		\$146,744		\$139,689	
Capital Equipment	\$45,000							
Invasive Species Control	\$60,000							
Tiedeman Pond	\$115,800*							
USFWS PBC Wetland Enhancements	\$23,500*							
PBC to Graber Pond Trail Link		\$250,000*	\$227,280		\$218,291		\$76,504	
Southern Cattail Control				\$15,000*	\$11,462		\$13,941	
Middleton Beach Road Trails and Habitat Enhancement				\$22,200				
Kromrey Middle School Trails						\$20,000		
PBC SE Drain Tile Removal						\$11,200*	\$4,488	
PBC Duckblind Boardwalk						\$55,000*		
Conservancy Lands Master Plan Update								\$20,000
Total	\$366,800	\$515,400		\$124,200		\$256,200		\$259,175

* Grant and/or donation associated project

Table 5-7. Projected Conservancy Lands Capital Projects, 2018-2023

PROJECT	2018 ^A	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION
Acquisition		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Acquisition should be a priority when opportunities arise.
Improvements							
Compact Track Loader	\$63,000						Compact track loader/track skid steer including a front mount forestry mower. Equipment shared with Public Works ^B
PBCC Technology and Security Improvements			\$30,000				Improvements to technology and security, including an update of the emergency medical services locator system ^B
Master Plan Improvements		\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	Improvements per recommendations of Master Plans (benches, kiosks, etc.)
Middleton Hills Boardwalk	\$135,000						Replacement of Middleton Hills Boardwalk in the Middleton Hills Wetland adjacent to Frank Lloyd Wright Ave ^B
PBC Southeast Trail Boardwalk		\$70,000					Replace boardwalk decking and add traction strips ^B
PBC Signage Project		\$20,000					Replace PBC signage ^B
PBC Technology and Security Improvements				\$25,000	\$25,000		Improvements to technology and security, including an update of the emergency medical services locator system ^B
Trail Counters						\$30,000	Counters measure pedestrian traffic ^B
Restoration Priorities							
Bock Community Forest	\$25,000	\$20,000					50/50 match with FOPB donation for prairie and oak savanna restoration. Move to Operations budget in 2020
Mary E Jacobson Fish Scrape				\$28,000			Creation of fish habitat similar to PARC-funded Pike Pond spawning project
Mary E Jacobson Trail Installation				\$71,775			Construction of a series of looping interlocking paved and unpaved trails through the Middleton Beach Road area and Mary E Jacobson Conservancy (Source: Capital Improvement Plan 2017-2021)
Middleton Bike Park Oak Woodland Restoration					\$400,000		Oak woodland restoration in non-golf course area (10 years of management). Area is an environmental and recreational corridor
Middleton Hills Trail Development						\$8,000	Installation of trail in Oulots 63&64 connecting the Middleton Hills neighborhood to existing Middleton Hills Trails and ultimately PBC. Component of Middleton Hills Restoration Capital Project (2016, 2017) not completed
MRD Dorn Creek Wetland Restoration						\$300,000	Protection and restoration of wetland in northern portion of the Metropolitan Refuse District (10 years of management). Area includes remnant sedge meadow

^A Approved 2018 projects. Source: 2018 Approved Budget, City of Middleton

^B Source: Capital Improvement Plan 2018-2022, City of Middleton

Table 5-7. Projected Conservancy Lands Capital Projects, 2018-2023

PROJECT	2018 ^A	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION
PBC SE Tile Break		\$12,000					Excavation and removal of drain tiles from a seep in the southeast section of the PBC identified in 2014. Following removal of drain tiles, area will be cleared of invasive species and planted to native species. Recommended by USFWS
PBC Restoration of Hayfield				\$100,000			Restoration of hayfield to native prairie (10 years of management). Creates contiguous habitat between the PBC and John C Bock Community Forest
South Fork Oak Woodland Restoration			\$135,000				Restoration of remnant oak woodland east of Pleasant View Rd (10 years of management). This area is an environmental and recreational corridor
Recommended Master Plans							
Bishop's Bay proposed park/conservancy Master Plan			\$20,000				Funding source TBD
Bock Community Forest Master Plan						\$6,000	Addendum to 2009 Master Plan
Boundary Road Conservancy Master Plan			\$6,000				No prior master plan
Capital Ice Arena Conservancy Master Plan				\$6,000			No prior master plan
Esser Pond Master Plan				\$20,000			Prior plan >10 years old
Graber Pond Conservancy Master Plan					\$6,000		Addendum to prior plans. Surrounding area likely to be developed
Hidden Oaks Master Plan		\$15,000					No prior master plan
Lakeview Park Conservancy Master Plan				\$6,000			Addendum to prior plans
Mary E. Jacobsen Conservancy Master Plan			\$20,000				Needs plan dedicated to Jacobson Conservancy
Middleton Bike Park Master Plan		\$20,000				\$15,000	Master Plan specific to non-golf course conservancy lands.
Middleton Hills Conservancy Master Plan					\$10,000		Needs comprehensive plan
MRD Master Plan		\$30,000					Master Plan for the Metropolitan Refuse District areas managed by CLC
North Fork Master Plan						\$12,000	Addendum to prior plans

^A Approved 2018 projects. Source: 2018 Approved Budget, City of Middleton

^B Source: Capital Improvement Plan 2018-2022, City of Middleton

Conservancy Lands Plan 2018-2023

Table 5-7. Projected Conservancy Lands Capital Projects, 2018-2023

PROJECT	2018 ^A	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION
Orchid Heights Prairie Conservancy Master Plan			\$6,000				No prior master plan
PBC Master Plan			\$50,000				Coordination with FOPB, Dane County and WDNR
Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor Master Plan				\$20,000			Prior plan >20 years old
Pheasant Branch Ridge Drainageway Master Plan				\$6,000			No prior master plan
Quarry Hill Master Plan		\$15,000					No prior master plan
Shorecrest Detention Pond Master Plan						\$6,000	No prior master plan
South Fork Master Plan		\$15,000					Proposed development of South Pond area in 2019
Spring Hill Detention Pond Master Plan						\$6,000	No prior master plan
Stonefield Conservancy Master Plan					\$6,000		No prior master plan
Tiedeman & Stricker Pond Master Plan					\$30,000		Joint Master Plan for Stricker Pond, Tiedeman Pond, Elm Lawn Conservancies

^A Approved 2018 projects. Source: 2018 Approved Budget, City of Middleton

^B Source: Capital Improvement Plan 2018-2022, City of Middleton

Table 5-8. Projected Trail Rehabilitation Capital Projects, 2018-2023

PATH SEGMENT	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION
Middleton Hills South: Frank Lloyd Wright to Boardwalk		\$11,424					Length = 402'
North Fork: Airport Road to Town of Middleton				\$109,843			Length = 3000'
North Fork: Parview to Pleasant View			\$44,438				Length = 3211'
North Fork: Standard Imaging to new pavement		\$83,302					Length = 2332'
PBCC: Deming to Parmenter							Length = 2305'
South Fork: Deming to UW Health			\$71,468				Length = 2102'
South Fork: Raven to Greenway		\$42,853					Length = 1130'
Tiedeman Pond: Pondview to South Ave			\$32,953				Length = 911'
Estimated total cost over 5-years				\$991,102			Repaving of path segments as needed based on PASER condition ratings. Compliance with ADA and DOT Standards

Source: Capital Improvement Plan 2018-2022, City of Middleton

Table 5-9. Projected Non-Conservancy Lands Funded Capital Projects, 2018-2023

ITEM	2018 ^A	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCE
Bike Park Trailhead, Parking and Access Drive	\$420,000						PRFC Fund Balance and Repl. Fund
Bishop's Bay 50-acre park/conservancy					TBD	TBD	PRFC park development fees, or CL capital
Pheasant Branch Conservancy Trailhead Acquisition	\$475,000						Planning TIF funding for parking/bridges/trail (\$302,750), grant funds for building (\$172,250)
GIS and Data Management System		\$45,000					TBD; Licensing fee for software may already in operations budget
Northeast Middleton Trail Connector	\$75,000						Planning TIF funding
PBC Parking Study & Improvements		\$10,000	\$15,000				TBD; improve parking at Graber to PBC connection
Public GIS Update		\$40,000					TBD; Licensing fee for software may already in operations budget
South Pond Improvements	\$125,000						Planning TIF funding
South Pond Forebay Dredging	\$220,000						Storm Water Utility
Adaptive Management/TDML Compliance	\$65,370						Water Resource Management Commission

^A Approved 2018 projects. Source: 2018 Approved Budget, City of Middleton

Table 5-10. Master Plan Prioritization, 2018-2023

CONSERVANCY	YEAR OF PRIOR PLAN(S)	RECOMMENDED PRIORITY ^A	RECOMMENDED CAPITAL BUDGET YEAR	ESTIMATED COST ^B	RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENTS
South Fork of Pheasant Branch Creek	none	high	2019	\$15,000	CL	Development of South Pond area is planned for 2019
Quarry Hill Conservancy	none	high	2019	\$15,000	CL	Potential recreation and restoration area
Middleton Bike Park	none	high	2019	\$20,000	CL	Needs dedicated plan. Partners = Capital Off-Road Pathfinders (CORP)
Hidden Oaks Conservancy	none	high	2019	\$15,000	CL/DPW	Oak woodland; neighbor interest in management
Metropolitan Refuse District	none	high	2019	\$30,000	DPW/CL	Needs separation of units (DPW: landfill; Parks: dog park; CL: wetland)
Boundary Road Conservancy	none	high	2020	\$6,000	CL	Mature oaks; limited use (neighborhood); connects with Madison open space
Orchid Heights Conservancy	none	high	2020	\$6,000	CL	Needs plan for restored prairie
Bishop's Bay proposed park/conservancy	n/a	high	2020	\$20,000	TBD	Future recreation and conservation area
Mary E. Jacobson Conservancy	n/a	high	2020	\$20,000	CL	Needs dedicated plan
Pheasant Branch Conservancy	1982, 1998, 1998, 1999, 2006, 2008	medium	2020	\$50,000	CL	Partners = FOPB, Dane County Parks, WDNR, USFWS
Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor	1998, 1999	medium	2021	\$20,000	CL	
Esser Pond Conservancy	1989, 2004	medium	2021	\$20,000	CL	

^A Priority is based on past master plans and vegetation quality.

^B Estimated cost is based on size, stakeholder interest, complexity and previous budget requests.

Table 5-10. Master Plan Prioritization, 2018-2023

CONSERVANCY	YEAR OF PRIOR PLAN(S)	RECOMMENDED PRIORITY ^A	RECOMMENDED CAPITAL BUDGET YEAR	ESTIMATED COST ^B	RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENTS
Pheasant Branch Ridge Drainageway	none	medium	2021	\$6,000	DPW	
Capital Ice Arena Conservancy	none	medium	2021	\$6,000	CL	
Lakeview Park Conservancy	2002	medium	2021	\$6,000	CL	Significant investment and grant award for restoration (streambank, sedge meadow)
Stricker Pond Conservancy	1982, 2005, 2014, 2016	medium	2022	\$10,000	CL/WRMC	Stricker/Tiedeman joint Master Plan and Storm Water Management Plan
Tiedeman Pond Conservancy	2006, 2012, 2004	medium	2022	\$16,000	CL/WRMC	Includes Elm Lawn Savanna
Middleton Hills Conservancy	1998, 2004, 2009	medium	2022	\$10,000	CL/WRMC	
Graber Pond Conservancy	2006	low	2022	\$6,000	CL	
Stonefield Conservancy	1995	low	2022	\$6,000	DPW/CL	
North Fork of Pheasant Branch Creek	2005, 2005	low	2023	\$12,000	DPW/CL	
Bock Community Forest	2009	low	2023	\$6,000	CL	Plan needs addendum to address ongoing management
Shorecrest Detention Pond	none	low	2023	\$6,000	DPW	
Spring Hill Detention Pond	none	low	2023	\$6,000	DPW	

^A Priority is based on past master plans and vegetation quality.

^B Estimated cost is based on size, stakeholder interest, complexity and previous budget requests.

Table 5-11. Grants Received for Conservancy Lands, Streambank Stabilization and Storm Water Projects, 2011-2017

DATE RANGE	GRANTING AGENCY, GRANT PROGRAM ^A	LOCATION	PROJECT	PROJECT SCOPE	STATUS	TOTAL PROJECT COST	GRANT AWARDED
2010-2011	DNR, AIS	Orchid Heights Park/Conservancy	Water Lettuce and Water Hyacinth	Manual removal of water lettuce and water hyacinth in two detention ponds in Orchid Heights Park	closed		\$6,553
2010-2012	DNR, UW	primarily Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Middleton Deer Abatement	Deer control and damage abatement project	closed		\$2,500
2010-2012	DNR, USC	Lakeview Conservancy	Lakeview Park Water Quality Improvements	Cost-sharing for design, engineering services and construction activities to restore the drainage channel and re-establish wetland to reduce urban runoff carrying suspended solids, phosphorous and heavy metals into the waters of the state. Assistance with Municipal Storm Water Permit goals	closed		\$83,020
2012-2013	DNR, AIS	multiple	Southern Cattail Removal	Eradication of Southern Cattail from Middleton wetlands. Effort with consultants and volunteers	closed		\$7,367
2012-2013	DNR, USC	Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor	Park Street to Parmenter Streambank Stabilization	Cost-sharing for streambank protection and sediment reduction practices. Assistance with Municipal Storm Water Permit goals	closed		\$120,000
2013	USFWS	Pheasant Branch Conservancy	USFWS PBC Wetland Enhancements	Drain tile removal, invasive species removal, and native seeding on the west side of PBC below the overlook prairie	closed		\$23,000
2013	DNR, NPS	Lakeview Conservancy	Lakeview Park Streambank Stabilization and Habitat Enhancement	Stabilize approximately 1,600 linear feet of eroding streambank using ecologically-sensitive techniques to mitigate erosion by dissipating stream energy, increasing flood flow capacity, and re-establishing dense deep rooted vegetation (50% City Match)	closed	\$115,200	

^AWDNR grants: AIS = Aquatic Invasive Species, LPAS = Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, NPS = Nonpoint Source Pollution, RTP = Recreational Trails Program, UGS = Urban Green Space, USC = Urban Storm Water Construction, USP = Urban Stormwater Planning, UW = Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control | Dane County: PARC = Partners for Recreation and Conservation

Table 5-11. Grants Received for Conservancy Lands, Streambank Stabilization and Storm Water Projects, 2011-2017

DATE RANGE	GRANTING AGENCY, GRANT PROGRAM ^A	LOCATION	PROJECT	PROJECT SCOPE	STATUS	TOTAL PROJECT COST	GRANT AWARDED
2010-2014	DNR, RTP	Graber Pond	Graber Pond Development	Construction of a 1600' trail along the East side of Graber Pond. The trail will require wetland boardwalks and a chapter 30 permit for wetland impacts and structures in the pond. The project will include native seed, plugs and invasives control and recycled asphalt. The trail will safely connect to the sidewalk gap along High Road. The project will highlight the conical mound with interpretive signs (Total project cost for Graber Pond Development + Trail Development = \$250,000)	closed		\$30,000
2010-2014	DNR, LPAS	Graber Pond	Graber Pond Trail Development	Same as prior (Total project cost for Graber Pond Development + Trail Development = \$250,000)	closed		\$33,790
2011-2014	DNR, RTP	South Fork of the Pheasant Branch Creek	City of Middleton, South Fork/Greenway Center Trail	City of Middleton is Developing the South Fork/Greenway Center Trail, 9.5 acres, Friends of Kettle Ponds will be involved, trail will be paved and cleared for year round ADA access. This trail will be used to connect the existing trail system with future Good neighbor Trail and the communities of Middleton, Cross Plains, and Mazomanie.	closed		\$45,000
2012-2014	DNR, UW	primarily Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Middleton Deer Abatement	Deer control and damage abatement project	closed		\$3,500
2012-2014	DNR, USC	South Fork of the Pheasant Branch Creek	South Fork of Pheasant Branch Creek	Cost-sharing streambank protection and sediment reduction practices within the segment of Pheasant Branch Creek between Greenway Blvd. & Market Street to assist the City in meeting the requirements of its Municipal Stormwater Permit and remedy discharges of total suspended solids, phosphorus & heavy metals entering waters of the state	closed		\$60,000

^AWDNR grants: AIS = Aquatic Invasive Species, LPAS = Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, NPS = Nonpoint Source Pollution, RTP = Recreational Trails Program, UGS = Urban Green Space, USC = Urban Storm Water Construction, USP = Urban Stormwater Planning, UW = Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control | Dane County: PARC = Partners for Recreation and Conservation

Table 5-11. Grants Received for Conservancy Lands, Streambank Stabilization and Storm Water Projects, 2011-2017

DATE RANGE	GRANTING AGENCY, GRANT PROGRAM ^A	LOCATION	PROJECT	PROJECT SCOPE	STATUS	TOTAL PROJECT COST	GRANT AWARDED
2014	Dane County, PARC	Tiedeman Pond	Tiedeman Pond Water Quality and Trails Enhancement	Control stormwater runoff pollution and increase available habitat through the construction of this two-acre forebay/wetland complex in an area that was dominated by cattails and reed canary grass. The wetland is designed to maximize available habitat as well as aid in the removal of pollutants through plant uptake, microbial breakdown, retention, settling, and adsorption; ultimately helping to control weed growth and algal blooms (50% City Match)	closed	\$115,800	
2013-2015	DNR, USP	multiple	Storm Water Plan Updates TMDL	Cost-sharing storm water plan modifications designed to address the wasteload allocations of the Rock River TMDL for the community and to meet the phosphorus and sediment reduction goals of the Municipal Storm Water Permit	closed		\$33,310
2014-2015	DNR, USP	Middleton Beach area	Middleton Beach Neighborhood Sustainable Land Use and Storm Water Management	Cost sharing development of a new storm water management plan as part of a sustainable land use plan for the Middleton Beach Neighborhood in the City of Middleton, a Green Tier Legacy Community. Goals are to reduce discharges of sediment and phosphorus to Lake Mendota	closed		\$25,160
2014-2016	DNR, UW	primarily Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Middleton Deer Abatement	Deer control and damage abatement project	closed		\$5,000
2013-2017	DNR, RTP	Lakeview Park/ Conservancy	Lakeview Park Disc Golf	Amendment #3 Location of the disc golf course was changed to the Lakeview Park. New Disc Golf Trail installed at Lakeview connects with the trail system through the park, adjacent elementary school and regional bike path	closed		\$7,300
2014-	DNR, AIS	multiple	Middleton Southern Cattail Control	continued work with consultants and volunteers to control the multiple stands of Typha domingensis located in the Middleton wetlands. In addition, if Phragmites or purple loosestrife are found in the project area, those plants will also be treated	open		\$25,787

^AWDNR grants: AIS = Aquatic Invasive Species, LPAS = Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, NPS = Nonpoint Source Pollution, RTP = Recreational Trails Program, UGS = Urban Green Space, USC = Urban Storm Water Construction, USP = Urban Stormwater Planning, UW = Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control | Dane County: PARC = Partners for Recreation and Conservation

Table 5-11. Grants Received for Conservancy Lands, Streambank Stabilization and Storm Water Projects, 2011-2017

DATE RANGE	GRANTING AGENCY, GRANT PROGRAM ^A	LOCATION	PROJECT	PROJECT SCOPE	STATUS	TOTAL PROJECT COST	GRANT AWARDED
2015-	DNR, USC	Middleton Beach area	Middleton Beach Road Green Street Design	Funding and cost-share reimbursement by the department for the project as described in the grant application submitted for calendar year 2015 for the eligible storm water construction activities listed in the application to address nonpoint sources of pollution (50% cost-share)	open		\$150,000
2015-	DNR, USC	Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Pheasant Branch Conservancy Streambank Restoration and Habitat Enhancement	Approximately ~ 2,000 linear feet of streambank restoration on severely eroding streambanks north of Century Ave	open	\$233,400	\$124,000
2016-	USFWS	Pheasant Branch Conservancy	USFWS PBC SE Drain Tile Removal	Marked drain tile lines with USFWS Private Land Manager, Mike Engel. Project not completed	open	\$11,200	\$1,000
2016-	DNR, UW	primarily Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Middleton Deer Abatement	Deer control and damage abatement project	open		\$4,150
2017-	DNR, UGS	Pheasant Branch Conservancy	Gerhardt Acquisition Pheasant Branch Trailhead	Funds to aid with the purchase of two parcels for the purpose of developing a regional trailhead that will include a park shelter with a picnic area, restrooms, parking area, and storm water enhancements	open	\$475,000	\$172,250

^AWDNR grants: AIS = Aquatic Invasive Species, LPAS = Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, NPS = Nonpoint Source Pollution, RTP = Recreational Trails Program, UGS = Urban Green Space, USC = Urban Storm Water Construction, USP = Urban Stormwater Planning, UW = Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control | Dane County: PARC = Partners for Recreation and Conservation

Table 5-12. Comparison of Conservancy Lands Resources in Like Departments in Dane County, 2017

MUNICIPALITY	MIDDLETON, CITY OF	DEFOREST, VILLAGE OF	MADISON, CITY OF	FITCHBURG, CITY OF	DANE COUNTY
Departmental organization	Conservancy Lands, within Public Lands, Recreation and Forestry Department	Conservancy Lands, within the Parks, Trails and Forestry Department	Conservation Parks, within the Parks Division	Parks, Forestry & Natural Resources	Parks Division, within the Land and Water Resources Department
Acres of Conservancy Lands	835	271	1,750	85	12,608
Acres of drainage and detention areas	acreage not quantified	32 areas (acreage not quantified)	982	164	--
Population (2010 Census)	17,442	8,936	233,209	25,260	488,073
How are projects prioritized?	Past management, ecological quality, capital and grant funding, and partner support	-- ^A	(1) Followup on previous work, (2) ecological quality, and (3) capital funding available	No formal process. Some areas get more attention because they are managed by volunteers. Other areas do not get any management other than risk management – taking down hazard trees	--
Biggest challenge	Meeting the expectations/ desires/wishes of Middleton's citizens within the current labor and financial constraints	Never enough time or funding to manage it all	Ecologically, achieving desirable fire effects. Operationally, staffing limitations	Lack of funding and management plans.	--

^A Data not available

^B Average capital budget for conservation parks over a 6-year average period (2018-2023) was \$330,000. 2017 capital budget was \$220,000.

^C City of Madison Parks Division does not divide operating budgets between parks, conservation parks, recreation and forestry. Total Parks Division budget was \$17 million in 2011. Madison's trail system is funded by the Engineering Division.

^D Additional sources included: City of Madison 2017 Capital Budget Capital Improvement Plan and City of Fitchburg Parks and Open Space Plan 2015-2010.

^E City of Middleton trail mileages include all conservancy, parks and other off-road trails within the city.

^F Dane County Parks Division operating budget for Recreation Parks, Natural Resource Areas, Wildlife Areas, Historical/Cultural Sites, County Forests and Trails.

Table 5-12. Comparison of Conservancy Lands Resources in Like Departments in Dane County, 2017

MUNICIPALITY	MIDDLETON, CITY OF	DEFOREST, VILLAGE OF	MADISON, CITY OF	FITCHBURG, CITY OF	DANE COUNTY
<i>Miles of trail</i>					
Natural surface	3.3 ^E	1	11	2	--
Paved	11.4 ^E	5	0	0	--
Boardwalk	1.2 ^E	1	0.25	0	--
Crushed limestone	4.7 ^E	1	7	0	--
Capital budget	\$244,175	0	\$330,000 ^B	0	\$5,889,700
Operating budget	\$144,584	\$41,251	-- ^B	\$14,500	\$2,577,210 ^F
Donations	\$15,000	0	--	\$1,500	--
Volunteer hours	967	0	--	500+	~65,000
Staffing (full-time equivalent)	1	1	3.6	0.6	31
Staffing (seasonal hours)	1,248	0	2,000	0	--
<i>Habitat types (acres)</i>					
Prairie remnant	--	minimal	20	0	--
Restored prairie	--	30	190	60	--
Wetland	--	75	1,025	2.4	--
Oak savanna	--	3	25	0	--
Oak woodland	--	6	335	0	--
Other forest	--	150	60	25	--

^A Data not available

^B Average capital budget for conservation parks over a 6-year average period (2018-2023) was \$330,000. 2017 capital budget was \$220,000.

^C City of Madison Parks Division does not divide operating budgets between parks, conservation parks, recreation and forestry. Total Parks Division budget was \$17 million in 2011. Madison's trail system is funded by the Engineering Division.

^D Additional sources included: City of Madison 2017 Capital Budget Capital Improvement Plan and City of Fitchburg Parks and Open Space Plan 2015-2010.

^E City of Middleton trail mileages include all conservancy, parks and other off-road trails within the city.

^F Dane County Parks Division operating budget for Recreation Parks, Natural Resource Areas, Wildlife Areas, Historical/Cultural Sites, County Forests and Trails.

Table 5-12. Comparison of Conservancy Lands Resources in Like Departments in Dane County, 2017

MUNICIPALITY	MIDDLETON, CITY OF	DEFOREST, VILLAGE OF	MADISON, CITY OF	FITCHBURG, CITY OF	DANE COUNTY
Comments			Other open space in Madison includes lands owned by the UW-Madison (e.g. Arboretum, Lakeshore Preserve)	Staff has many other non-conservancy duties	Dane County Parks categorizes land into Recreation Parks, Natural Resource Areas, Wildlife Areas, Historical/Cultural Sites, County Forests, and Trails. Dane County Parks also manages 2,800 acres of Conservation Easements and 24 miles of Streambank Easements
Sources ^D	Mark Wegner, Public Lands Recreation and Forestry Assistant Director and Forester	Joleen Stinson, Parks and Natural Resource Supervisor	Paul Quinlan, Conservation Resources Supervisor, 2012-2017 Parks and Open Space Plan	Anna Healy, Urban Forester and Naturalist	Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan 2018-2023, 2018 Adopted Budget Dane County, Wisconsin

^A Data not available

^B Average capital budget for conservation parks over a 6-year average period (2018-2023) was \$330,000. 2017 capital budget was \$220,000.

^C City of Madison Parks Division does not divide operating budgets between parks, conservation parks, recreation and forestry. Total Parks Division budget was \$17 million in 2011. Madison's trail system is funded by the Engineering Division.

^D Additional sources included: City of Madison 2017 Capital Budget Capital Improvement Plan and City of Fitchburg Parks and Open Space Plan 2015-2010.

^E City of Middleton trail mileages include all conservancy, parks and other off-road trails within the city.

^F Dane County Parks Division operating budget for Recreation Parks, Natural Resource Areas, Wildlife Areas, Historical/Cultural Sites, County Forests and Trails.