



Madison West Neighborhood Association, Inc. September Newsletter 9/22/16

MADISON WEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC

IN THIS ISSUE

Neighborhood Updates

by Joseph Ryan, MWNA President

The MWNA has been very busy in the last couple of months. We have seen our membership, interests, capacity, leadership and community grow. We have been working diligently with multiple departments within the city (Parks, Planning, Engineering, Common Council, MPD, etc) to try to bring attention to issues, concerns, growth, transparency, and accountability to the West side.

Major Topics for the Neighborhood:

- High Point-Raymond Dev Plan
- The City's 2017 Budget
- Community Garden Project
- Jeffy Trail Project
- MPD Announcements
- Mayor's Neighborhood Conference
- Midtown Police Station
- 7901 Watts Rd. Project
- Nextdoor.com
- Westside Leadership Meeting
- MWNA 2016 Social Event

Each of these topics will be explored, but we wanted to let you know that your neighborhood association is reaching out and trying to get you the information you need to

join the conversation! Every voice is important!

Getting Involved!

Throughout this article the main theme will be involvement and ways each of us can become involved in the items we care about. Without members involvement we are not a community of shared values!

Community Survey

We are proud to be able to offer a survey to our community to try and help us gain perspective on what is important to you! Not everyone can attend the meetings, not every wants to speak up. So we are reaching out to you! We are hoping to have the survey up by the next newsletter! Stay tuned!

Membership

To join as a member to the MWNA, please go to <https://goo.gl/xc6na9>

With your membership we can grow this community so that neighbors start crossing fences!



High Point-Raymond Neighborhood Development Plan

This fall the city is planning on revamping the 'High Point-Raymond Neighborhood Development Plan'. If you want a say in how our neighborhood is developed please contact us! The MWNA is forming a work group to focus on this task!

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Community Garden

Many members have expressed interest in a community garden! The MWNA, Parks Dept., Community GroundWorks. Have been in talks and things are moving!

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What Can Dragonflies Tell Us About the Ecology of Neighborhoods?

An article by Robert Bohanan a fellow neighbor!

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Community Garden Projects

The MWNA is working with Community Ground Works and Gardens Network to establish the neighborhoods first community garden. The idea is to have it on the north side of High Point Park. The reason this area was thought to be ideal was because of several factors:

Easy access from the condos and apartments nearby, nearness to water source, visibility from street, and open land availability

We are also working with the 'Madison Area Chef Network' on ways to help raise funds for the project! Stay tuned!

The location is not firm and is open to discussion. Deadline for our intention needs to be submitted before October 10th.



NEED VOLUNTEER PROJECT LEAD

Want to lead the efforts for the High Point Park Community Garden or want to be involved in the planning/implementation? Please let us know! info@madwest.org



Nextdoor.com

“Nextdoor is the private social network for your neighborhood.”

Nextdoor.com if you have not heard of it, is a great way that neighbors can communicate with each other. The MWNA is active on the website and does post communications there as via email at this time. However, this ran by neighbors and is by no means managed by the MWNA. We just think it is a great tool to get information out there!

If looking to get onto Nextdoor.com use this link or type it into your internet browser:

<https://nextdoor.com/invite/uaxcwumvabxpntqqhwr>

As a side note. We are continuing to work on a mailer/magazine but have not gotten to that point yet.



West District Police Updates

Two Community Forums Held by Chief Koval

- September 29, 6p - 7:30p at the West Madison Senior Center (602 Sawyer Terrace)
- October 3, 7p - 8:30p at Good Shepherd Church (5701 Raymond Road)

Please stop out and meet with the Chief!

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/west/blotter.cfm?id=11673>

Watch Wednesday

Watch Wednesday is an opportunity for current Neighborhood Watch programs or those interested in Neighborhood Watch to learn about the start up process and how to sustain a successful program.

- Date: September 21st
- Time: 7pm – 9pm
- Location: Madison Police Department Training Center 5702 Femrite Drive Madison, WI, 53718

Upcoming Watch Wednesday Dates

- December 21st, 2016
- March 22nd, 2017
- June 21st, 2017
- September 20th, 2017

For questions on Watch Wednesday contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Officer Rodney Wilson at 608-266-4238 or rwilson@cityofmadison.com

West District Community Survey

For more than a decade, MPD has been doing annual community surveys. The surveys are district-specific, and are one more way for us to hear from the public.

Please take a few minutes to complete the West District survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Madison_WI_2016_WestPolice

Midtown Police Station Update

There has been a lot of discussion on the Midtown Police Station as of late. The information we have received so far has made it sound like the city is pushing the project down the pipeline in an attempt to use the budgeted money already voted on and approved in the 2016 Budget. If this is an important topic for you please reach out to the Mayor's Office & Common Council.

Mayor's Email: mayor@cityofmadison.com

Alder McKinney: district1@cityofmadison.com

All Alders: allalders@cityofmadison.com

Neighborhood Updates

2017 City Improvement Plan (CIP) / Budget

The 2017 Capital budget that the Mayor has put out is available for review. The total capital budget that is purposed is \$329 million 46% of this is borrowed money. There are many projects listed in this budget such as: Bike path improvements, updating roads, Olbrich Improvements, a new downtown park, a Public Market, County Hwy M improvements, planning for bus rapid transit, affordable housing, new library, new neighborhood center, etc.

The MWNA does not have a stance on the budget at this time. However, we do encourage all neighbors to be informed of the budget and to communicate with both the Mayor's office and Common Council on this topic.

- City Finance 2017: <https://goo.gl/boEuGi>
- Budget Page: Mayor's Email: mayor@cityofmadison.com
- Alder McKinney: district1@cityofmadison.com
- All Alders: allalders@cityofmadison.com

**Important dates: Board of estimates budget decision meeting is on 9/26/16 Monday @ 4:30 pm / Room 260, MMB

High Point-Raymond Neighborhood Development Plan Workgroup

The city is going to be redoing the development plan for a large portion of our neighborhood. The MWNA has decided to be proactive and start forming a workgroup of neighborhood members that are interested in having a say on how their neighborhood is developed by the city and developers. To join the work group email info@madwest.org

- City Project Page: <https://goo.gl/wakXCg>
- Current Plan: <https://goo.gl/c8JxDs>

Jeffy Trail Project

There has been a lot of questions and concerns about the Jeffy Trail Project. At this time, it does appear that the project has not been considered part of the 2017 budget. However, this does not mean the project has gone away completely. If you feel strongly about the project, please attend the work group for the redevelopment of the 'High Point-Raymond Neighborhood Plan'. If interested in joining this work group contact info@madwest.org

- City Project Page: <https://goo.gl/LwDXmO>

Mayor's Neighborhood Conference and Roundtable

This is the 20th anniversary of the first neighborhood conference! Community leaders have been coming together since then to learn, share, and celebrate successes of their worthy endeavors. We expect a variety of persons to attend – those new to working on the neighborhood level to those that are well versed, staff from the city,

county, and nonprofits, and business owners that bring value to the neighborhoods they serve. We (the city) would like to encourage our new civic leaders – our youth and millennials – to share thoughts on what will make our neighborhoods and city a better place.

Be part of this year's event by registering today. Twelve Neighborhood Conversations, Twelve Workshops and 4 Walking Workshops will feature relevant information, discussions, and action ideas to take back to your neighborhood.

When: October 8th from 8am-5pm

For More Info: <https://goo.gl/hlyPJR>

7901 Watts Rd. Project (156 apartments) Informational Meeting

The MWNA has requested an informational meeting for the large apartment project that is being planned for at the lot next to Princeton Club. Alder Paul Skidmore has arranged an information meeting with the developer and city to listen and address questions on the project.

- Where: 2 Science Drive, Madison WI
- Conference Room
- When: September 28th @ 5:30 pm
- Who should attend: Anyone with questions/concerns/approvals in the area of 7901 Watts Rd.

Purpose: The MWNA has requested an open Informational/Discussion meeting on 7901 Watts Rd. Project (Construct residential building complex with 156 apartments in 2 buildings).

- City Project Page: <https://goo.gl/bHf6IO>
- Site Plan: <https://goo.gl/Bjectd>
- Planning Division Staff Report: <https://goo.gl/zmGkf4>
- Legislative Information Center Link: <https://goo.gl/rMU9IM>

Westside Leadership Meeting

A number of the west side neighborhood associations presidents are coming together to meet for the first time. One of the main topics will be the Midtown Police Station and the 2017 Capital Budget. If you have any questions or comments please let us know at info@madwest.org.

Hawks Landing Storm Water Issues

The MWNA has reached out to the city's engineering department on getting an official/summary to the questions/comments/ideas/etc that came out of the Aug. 23rd Townhall meeting with the engineering department. However they have not replied or sent meeting minutes at this time.

- Eng. Dept. Contact Email: engineering@cityofmadison.com

What Can Dragonflies Tell Us About the Ecology of Neighborhoods?

by Robert Bohanan, Outreach Program Manager II at University of Wisconsin-Madison

The beginning of autumn decided by the red dragonfly. (By Shirao)

Dragonflies, and their cousins, damselflies, are a regular feature around most bodies of water during summer months throughout the world. There are approximately 3,000 species of dragonflies worldwide with over 300 in the US and 160 species in WI. Dragonflies are an ancient species dating back to at least 325 million years ago.

Some of these were quite large. The largest dragonflies known in the present day have wingspans of about 20 cm, while those of the Paleozoic reached 60+ cm. That's about the size of a red-tailed hawk!

Damselflies, dragonfly cousins, have a slender abdomen compared to dragonflies and they almost always hold their wings together above their thorax when not flying, unlike dragonflies which hold their wings flat and to their sides.

Dragonfly and damselfly, naiads (an immature stage with incomplete metamorphosis as opposed to complete metamorphosis with a chrysalis or pupae before emerging as an adult like a butterfly) live their entire immature stage in lakes, ponds, streams and rivers, with most species in WI taking from 1-2 years to go from egg to egg and with some larger species taking as much as 4-5 years to mature. Naiads go through a series of 12-15 molts shedding their skin or exoskeleton to grow. When naiads emerge, most leave the water, crawling to the nearest vegetation from which to perch before splitting their exoskeleton and hanging from their last larval exoskeleton, or exuviae, pumping fluids into their wings and letting them harden and dry in the air. Most species spend 24-48 hours in what is referred to as the teneral stage in which they have very little color and are generally weak flyers.

In 2007, several of us began what is now considered a unique study of urban and metropolitan stormwater runoff and detention ponds in Dane County, WI. We had no idea of how interesting and exciting these little overlooked ponds were going to be and how important they were going to be scientifically in the study of freshwater habitats. This work began as a citizen science project with most of the research being conducted by non-scientists, especially school-aged children and their teachers. Schools worked in partnership with UW Madison scientists and undergraduate students along with Verona Public Works. What began as a several year study of one pond at what is now the Whalen Pond Outdoor Laboratory, Whalen Rd, Verona, WI, has now expanded to include 16 ponds in the Upper Sugar River Watershed (<http://usrwa.org/about-us/>)(Figure 1). These are part of a larger study spanning a corridor from Verona to Milwaukee of approximately 70 ponds. The Upper Sugar River Watershed includes some or all of the cities, towns and villages of Madison, Middleton, Fitchburg, Cross Plains, Mt. Horeb, Springdale, Primrose, Montrose and Belleville. West Madison Neighborhood is in the northeastern corner of the watershed.

We have found a relationship of naiad and adults to water clarity with more species and higher relative abundance in ponds with higher water clarity and lower turbidity than those with high turbidity and low water clarity (Figure 2 and 3).

We have some species such as 12-spotted skimmer at most ponds throughout the summer and other species such as autumn meadowhawk only in fall and only at a few ponds (see photos below). Common Green Darner and Twelve-Spotted Skimmer are the most abundant and the most frequently observed, whereas the Variegated



Fossil Photo



Green Darner (large sp.) E. Amberwing (small sp.)



Familiar Bluet (adult) / Damselfly immature



Dragon Naiad Teneral adult



Spatterdock Darner / Comet Darner / Carolina Saddlebags



Smoky Shadowdragon / Spotted Skimmer / Autumn Meadowhawk

Meadowhawk and Calico Penant are rarely seen (Figure 4).

Why Study Dragonflies?

In addition to the potential to tell us something about the health of watersheds and ponds and an early warning indicator of climate change, dragonflies are found widely and are important in food webs. Further there are several species of interest in our area, such as the Spatterdock Darner, that scientists and DNR are keenly interested in learning more about <http://wiatri.net/inventory/odonata/>.

In summer of 2015, we noticed an influx of Carolina Saddlebags, a southern US species and similarly in 2016, Smoky Shadowdragons and Comet Darners, primarily southern US species began showing up in WI. Though it is too early to say for certain, these observations may be an indicator of species response to shifting climate, thus serving as an early warning system of the effects of climate on the ecology of our region. The importance of dragonflies is further suggested because both naiads and adults are one of the top or apex predators in ponds and streams in the USRW. Dragonflies feed on other aquatic insects, including nuisance flies and mosquitos. The naiads are an important food source for many fish, while the adults represent an equally important food source for several species of birds.

In the summer of 2016, we began a study of West Madison Neighborhood ponds and we found similar trends to ponds in our Verona Area studies from 2015 described earlier. We found some similarities with dragonflies and water clarity, but we also found a surprise. Most of our previously studied ponds were ponds constructed between 10 and 30 years ago. The pond at the intersection of Spoke and Sprocket Rd, just off Verona Road was recently constructed and it had the greatest abundance and highest number of species of any of our previous study ponds! Of ponds analyzed so far, it is also the only pond with little to no residential lawn draining into it. We are excited to see how the ecology of this pond develops and hope to find other newly constructed ponds to add to our study (Figure 5 and 6).

So what we've learned so far is that there are wonderful and beautiful species of dragonflies flying about our neighborhoods and they are telling us some things about the ecology of the ponds in our neighborhoods. Some species are very common and other

species are very rare. Part of what explains that phenomenon is related to water clarity. Water clarity is lowest in ponds that have the most sediment running off increasing turbidity and also encouraging algae and cyanobacteria blooms, which further reduces water clarity.

If you are interested in learning more about the ecology of our neighborhoods, want to add a pond near you to the study, want to explore the Upper Sugar River Watershed and would like to participate in environmental stewardship and research as a citizen scientist please contact:

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 UW Madison
 WISCIENCE / North Temperate Lakes LTER
 (608) 239-6174

rbohanan@wisc.edu / rbrtbohanan52@gmail.com / mail.com/usrwa@usrwa.org

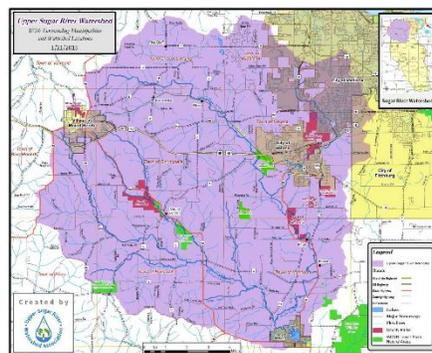


Figure 1. <http://usrwa.org/wp-content/uploads/USRW-Map.pdf>

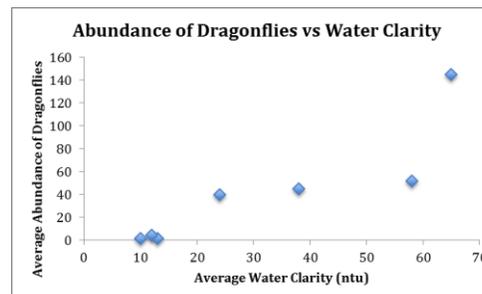


Figure 2. Abundance of dragonflies is greater in ponds with higher water clarity.

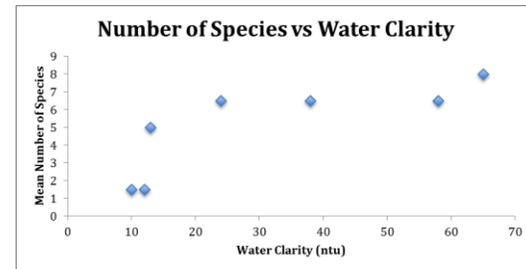


Figure 3. The number of different species of dragonflies is greater in ponds with higher water clarity.

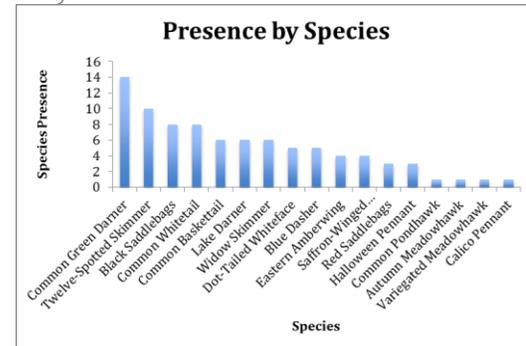


Figure 4. The most abundant and most frequently observed to the least abundant and rarely observed in 2015.

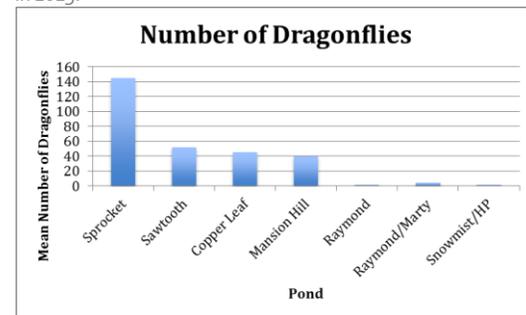


Figure 5. Abundance of dragonflies at Far West Madison area ponds (Ponds are identified by the street they are on or the nearest intersection).

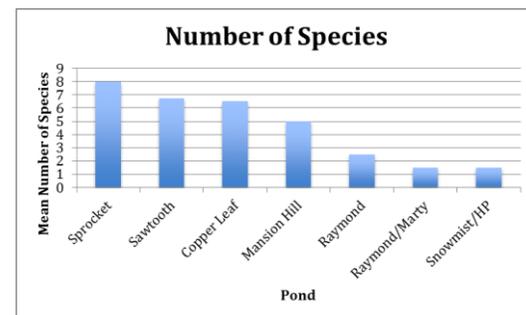


Figure 6. The number of species found at Far West Madison area ponds.