

From: [Mohelnitzky, Hannah](#)
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[image029.png](#)
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[image023.png](#)
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THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



June 2024 Issue

A message from your City Engineer, Jim Wolfe

I had such a great experience doing my official Ride Along with our Ops crews and learning a lot about some of the work in our Division that I had pretty limited knowledge and experience with in my prior role. With a similar idea in mind, I had the opportunity to visit one of our Green Power project sites. Once again, I was blown away by the great work that they're doing, and I was able to learn so much not only about solar installation, but about our Green Power program in general. I remain so impressed by the talented, knowledgeable, and hard-working staff we have in Engineering, doing a wide variety of work, and I so look forward to continuing to learn more about it. I want to send a huge thank you to the team that met with me – Matt, Eric, Brooke, Jose, Autumn, Nelson, Folly, Ray, Sam, and William – for taking the time away from their day to show me around the project, answer my questions, and teach me about the awesome work that they're doing. I'm hoping to continue to reach out to various folks throughout our Division who can share their expertise with me!

Engineering's Maddie Dumas Earns #TeamCity Award

The #TeamCity Mayor's Choice Award goes to Madeline Dumas.

Maddie is a Native Vegetation Supervisor in the Engineering Department. Her current responsibilities include vegetative management for Stormwater Utility Lands. Her work focuses on reducing invasive species, increasing native plant cover, improving ecosystem functionality, enhancing pollinator and other wildlife habitats, all while maintaining stormwater functionality. Maddie has built partnerships with local community groups dedicated to enhancing the long-neglected greenways in District 11. Her commitment and positive advocacy have made her invaluable, contributing not only her time and expertise but also supplies and resources for combating invasive plants. She actively educates residents on the importance of replacing them with native plants and seeds. A resident stated, "I cannot think of a better representative for the City of Madison than hardworking, knowledgeable, and friendly Maddie Dumas." She has effectively coordinated City services to bolster neighborhood volunteer initiatives, enhancing both the ecology and aesthetics of our cherished greenspace. Maddie joined the City as the Greenway Vegetation Coordinator in 2018. She built the division's native vegetation program from the ground up and was promoted to Native Vegetation Supervisor in 2023. Maddie has a master's degree in landscape architecture from UW-Madison. Maddie was nominated by District 11 Alder, Bill Tishler.

Equity Minute: Juneteenth

On June 19, 1865 - more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation - enslaved people in Galveston, Texas learned that they were free. This day, known as Juneteenth, commemorates that day. For the past 35 years the [Kujichagulia-Madison Center for Self Determination](#) has organized an event to share the history and culture of Juneteenth. This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 15th at Penn Park from 10 am to 6pm. Learn about the rich history and culture of Juneteenth through musical performances, poetry readings, inspiring speakers, delicious soul food, and much more. The whole family is welcome to this free community event.

Pride

Pride is celebrated throughout the month of June each year in commemoration of its roots in the Stonewall Riots of June 1969.

Wisconsin has a number of events celebrating LGBTQAI+ Pride including Pridefest, Ride with Pride, and the Magic Festival. More info on these and other Pride events in Wisconsin are available [here](#).

Interested in learning more?

[What is Juneteenth?](#)

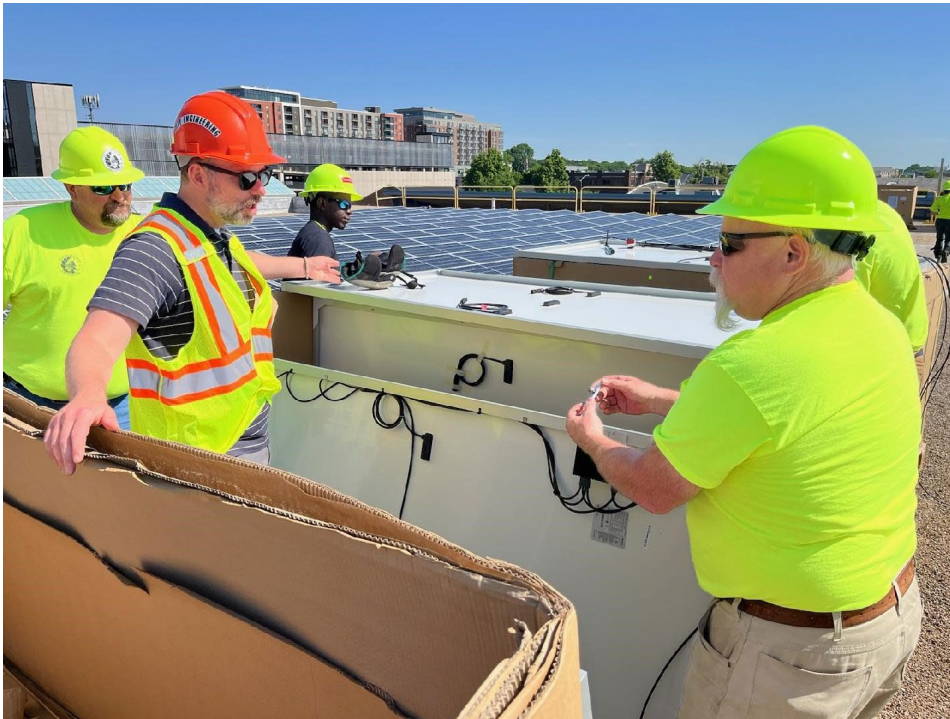
[Pride Month 2024: Origins, Parades & Dates](#)

Engineering Hosts Mini Greenhouse Event

Engineering Greenway Vegetation Coordinator Maddie Dumas hosted a mini greenhouse event in early May. Volunteers turned out to help transplant seedlings as part of an ongoing Engineering volunteer engagement effort to grow our own native plants for stormwater land! Volunteers helped transplant 30 native wetland species from the milk jug "greenhouses" they started back in December. Volunteers took the replanted trays home to babysit for the summer and will return in fall to help install plants at stormwater sites in need of a diversity boost.

Photos: GreenPower Hosts City Engineer







Pictured: GreenPower Team hosting City Engineer Jim Wolfe at the Madison Water Utility Paterson Street Vehicle Storage, May 23, 2024.

Timelapse: Willow Creek Basin Cleaning Done, Thank you, Crews!



[Watch the full timelapse video.](#)

The Willow creek stormwater treatment device collects and stores sediment from roadways to prevent it from entering Lake Mendota. Every spring, City of Madison Engineering Operations team works round the clock to pump down the water from the structure and then uses heavy equipment to remove the accumulated debris. The debris is hauled off-site to dewater. Once the material is dry, it is then hauled to the Dane County Landfill for use as daily cover.

This year's effort involved 14 employees who worked 215 hours of labor over a 48-hour period using 13 pieces of equipment – end loaders, dump trucks, skid steers, and pumps – to remove and transport approximately 300 CY of debris.

Great job to our teams who clean these to help keep all of this material out of our waterways!

Volunteer for Metro's First 'Bus Rodeo' June 15

Metro Transit invites any city employees to volunteer or judge at its first "Bus Rodeo" Competition June 15, 2024. The

“Bus Rodeo” is an event for transit agency employees to test their driving skills on 10 different short course events. The courses contain different obstacles and are timed.

Winners from the agency event can go on to regional and international “rodeo” competitions.

Sign up to be a volunteer or judge: www.surveymonkey.com/r/zl8z8fm

Any questions can be directed to me via email or phone jmaki@cityofmadison.com or [608-266-5961](tel:608-266-5961).

Media Roundup

News Releases

- [Crews Continue to Monitor Northside Lift Station Running on Backup Generator](#)
- [Engineering Crews Clean Sewer Overflow on City’s North Side](#)

Blogs

- [WOW! 2024 Willow Creek Basin Cleaning Makes an Impact](#)

Podcast Episodes: Everyday Engineering on iTunes, YouTube

Engineering PIO Hannah Mohelnitzky hosts experts from Engineering and City agencies to talk about different infrastructure and Engineering topics that impact our community. If you have an idea for an upcoming episode, email Hannah at hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com

- [Drink up! The Water Wagon is here](#)
- [Federal Funding Boosts Stormwater Design in the City with BRIC award](#)
- [Not Just Pretty, Ponds Have Purpose!](#)
- [Not a Baaaad Idea: City uses goats to care for green spaces](#)

Section Updates

Each month, Engineering Division City Engineer Jim Wolfe leads a section head meeting. Each month in The E, we will share main points for employees to know what was discussed on important topics that impact employees division-wide. This is to improve better internal communication between leadership and staff. This is separate from official meeting minutes.

Division Communications

Hannah Mohelnitzky, Engineering Division Public Information Officer

Our Engineering Communications Plan for 2023 is under review with Jim. Our Engineering 2024 Communications Plan is now underway. I’ll be working with the deputies as we work on our Flooding Communications Plan for Engineering at our next PIO-Deputies check in next month. Our Waterways 2024 Content plan is underway after meeting with stormwater section management. We’re very excited to welcome Maggie Spinney as our new PIO Intern for the summer, she’ll be starting June 10! Street Meets video shoots are scheduled and I’ll be working on another round of podcast recordings in June.

Public Works and Private Development

Chris Petykowski, Deputy City Engineer, Public Works and Private Development

Public works engineers are continuing to work on 2024 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month Fox Knoll Ph 1, 3802 Kipp St, Doncaster/Beverly/Danbury, Stevens, 118 W Wilson St. Badger Rusk & West Town Path Ph 2A had their designs presented to the public at public information meetings.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

- 2024 GreenPower team continuing solar PV installation work at [Water Utility Paterson Operations. Construction activities underway for CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV.](#)

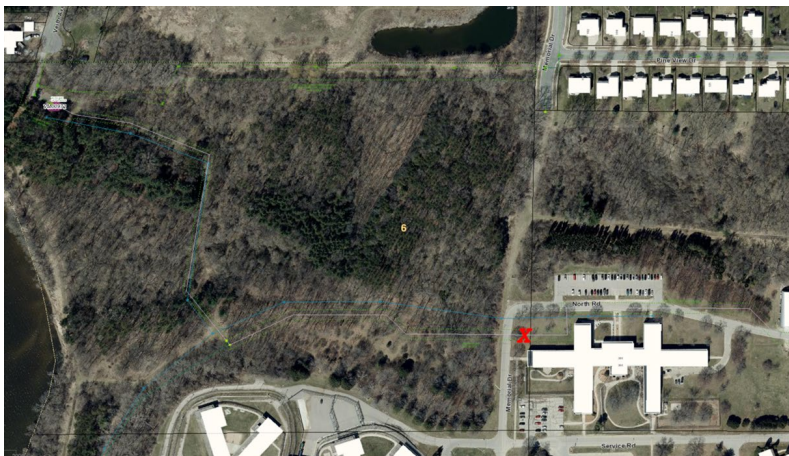
- Construction Phase > [CCB remodels \(Assessor/Clerk/Treasurer/OIM/Common Council\)](#), [Door Creek Park Pavilion](#), [Tenney Park Beach Shelter](#), [Madison Public Market](#), [Metro – Satellite Facility](#), [State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#), [Village on Park Parking Structure](#), [Fire Station 14 Training Site Phase 1](#), [Rennebohm Park Shelter Restroom Renovation](#), [Country Grove Park Shelter](#), [West Streets Facility HVAC and Lighting Upgrade](#).
- Bidding/Contract Phase > [Bartillon Shelter](#), [WPCRC Expansion](#)
- Design Phase > [Streets – Waste Transfer – Public Drop Off Access and Flatwork Improvements](#), [Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#), and [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#).

Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

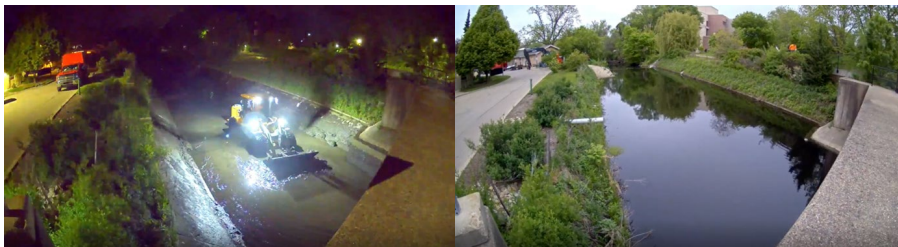
Jason Kelley, Public Works General Foreperson- CCTV & Trenchless Rehab

What a month it was for our Operations staff and did they meet the challenges!

On April 29, what was originally a water main break on the Mendota Mental Health campus, turned into a sanitary force main break (installed in 1934 and over 6,000’ until it drains into the next gravity mainline). Crews were able to locate and track the spill efficiently and confirm nothing made it to Lake Mendota. A contractor, Operations crews, and MMSD MetroGrow haulers worked day and night to ensure proper operation of the Veith Street Lift Station continued, no customers were affected and the repair was made quickly. This predicament has been a learning experience for everyone. Engineering is in the process of adjusting procedures specifically for Force Main Emergencies.



With drier weather during the week of May 13–17, Operations crews were able to clean out the Willow Creek “bathtub” off Campus Drive. This engineering designed drainage area collects debris, sediment, etc. from the University Avenue area before draining out to University Bay. During the annual cleanout, crews worked for several hours straight to remove over 300 cubic yards of debris!



To wrap up the month, severe storms on May 21 significantly impacted many areas of the city including traffic, power, schools, etc. Crews stepped up with clearing downed trees on roads and bike paths; assisted with powering Lift Stations to prevent further damage; and worked to make sure any inlets or other storm assets were clear of storm-related debris and remained operable.



Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Work is finally wrapping up at Wexford Pond and the frogs are already back, even after being successfully relocated for the large scale dredging. Prairie Hills Pond at Manchester and PD is scheduled for dredging this fall and will include additional catch basins to help capture some of the excess sand and sediment before it enters the pond. Lower Badger Mill Creek Ponds just north of Mid Town Rd at Meadow Rd is under contract for restoration. The street work and bike path adjacent to the pond will be constructed this summer and fall, making this a nice destination on the far west side. Our ecological / vegetation team is in full swing with the OFS staff and seasonals on board. It should be a jam-packed summer for field work. The Vegetation Management Plan is progressing with a technical focus group meeting of local experts with backgrounds in ecology, conservation and land management. This will be a great conversation to get ideas, feedback and explain the nuances and challenges we have managing our 1,500+ acres of stormwater utility owned lands with our limited resources. Other Public Input Meetings will be coming up for Sauk Creek Corridor, as well as a few watershed studies. Construction season is fully in swing now with many projects started, some getting advertised and some yet to be designed. Everyone really did a great job managing the work and getting projects out the door but there are still a few more to go yet!

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

2024 construction year is back in high gear. Our bid season for getting project built will be closing quickly though. Between the bid approval process and permitting, it takes time. Please plan accordingly if you have projects yet to bid. Private development work (both subdivision and infill lot redevelopment) is ongoing. Infill lot redevelopments that resulted in larger regional infrastructure sewer projects are now being designed and bid: Lake Street Garage Redevelopment (Lake St. sewer) will be starting soon; Gardners Bakery Redevelopment (Commercial Ave.(Hwy 30) sewer crossing) is in design; 1617 Sherman Ave. (Fordem-First Sewer Replacement), will not be built in 2024 due to Railroad Permitting; and finally 838 Williamson Street (Paterson St Sewer) is now moving forward with the City putting together the sewer design on S, Paterson St. Lift Stations Projects: Truax Lift Station Replacement is under construction and scheduled for completion in 2024. The Badger Lift Station Replacement will be designed in 2024, construction in 2025. After the Mendota Mental Institute Force Main Break at the end of April, we are planning to be more aggressive with force main replacements going forward. Sewer Projects funded by Impact Fees- The Pumpkin Hollow Neighborhood Sanitary Sewer (regional sewer improvement) will serve pending development in the vicinity of Portage Rd and Hoepker Road and potentially a much larger 674-acre basin which currently does not have access to City sewer. We are in the process of creating impact fee needs assessment.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- Assessor CAMA upgrade affecting addressing workflows. Working with Engineering Tech and IT to determine workflows for addressing and street name data.
- Coordination of multiple Real Estate projects, vacations, research and relocation orders for several engineering, planning, transportation and water projects
- 911 Address Point population is ongoing. Currently coordination ongoing for UW Campus addresses with UW staff.

- Private development with extensive land rights reviews, acquisitions and releases with Real Estate projects.
- Review of all historic Official Map reservations population of enactments in the mapping
- Checking and adding parcel mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to attach in 2027
- Updating of base mapping to prioritize areas in need of adjustment spatially of areas that are not accurately mapped.

Engineering Technology

Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager

- Facilities Management working in ACC for all workflows
 - All Change Orders and Pay Apps for Engineering are being completed in ACC
 - Adding all public projects to ACC with plans and revisions accessible in the field via iPads
 - ACC training ongoing and targeted to when users have project tasks to complete
 - Looking into getting CityWorks time imported into Kronos
 - Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
 - Developing Stormwater work orders for summer work on ponds and greenways
 - Carey went to CityWorks conference – looked at enhancements we can do with upgrade, and cloud based upgrades.
 - Ongoing
 - Setting up CAD standards, templates and efficiency improvements
 - E911 Addressing Points with Dane County
 - Misc CityWorks updates and maintenance
 - Sanitary & Storm record updates – working on sanitary and storm backlog
- Data Governance –Working on data training. Looking at City-wide data warehouse.

Administration Staff

Johanna Johnson, Heidi Fleegel, Isaac Gabriel

Common Council and Board of Public Works dates to know in June:

- Common Council resolutions deadline is Tuesday, May 28 at 8:00 AM (6/4 CC)
- Board of Public Works resolutions deadline is Wednesday, May 29 at NOON (6/5 BPW)
- Common Council resolutions deadline is Tuesday, June 11 at 8:00 AM (6/18 CC)
- Board of Public Works resolutions deadline is Tuesday, June 18 at Noon (6/26 BPW)
- For July meetings:
 - Common Council resolutions deadline is Tuesday, May 25 at 8:00 AM (7/2 CC)
 - Board of Public Works resolutions deadline is Wednesday, July 3 at NOON (7/10 BPW)
- Engineering’s letterhead has been updated to list Fadi El Musa Gonzalez as Principal Engineer 1. Please use current letterhead, available on GEAR, Engineering’s intranet. A link to the letterhead is available under Communications > Documents/Templates.

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

The Finance Section is gearing up for Operating Budget which kicks off on 6/17. Thank you to all who attended the Contracts training on 5/21. We covered a lot! Please reach out to Chase with any contract questions. The [Finance section of GEAR also has contract resources and we plan to add the recording of the contracts training so you can reference it as a refresher any time. Here’s our monthly Kronos Tip:](#)

Always check the far right column for variances before approving your timesheet.

Construction Inspection

John Fahrney, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Permits, private development projects, PW and WISDOT projects are well under way for 2024.

Surveyors are working on preliminary surveys for 2025.

Inspectors are implementing ACC.

Coming and Going

New Hires

- Troy Vant

Promotions

- Fadi El Musa Gonzalez

Departures

- Andrew Mellinger
- Lexi Liddicoat
- Terry Daveler
- Mike Butler
- Kyle Porter

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/employeeenet/engineering>



Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

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