**Protecting the Pollinators in Other Area Parks and Conservancies**

How do other local municipalities protect pollinators from neonicotinoid pesticides in their parks or conservancies?

**“Neonicotinoids** are a group of insecticides used widely on farms and in urban landscapes. They are absorbed by plants and can be present in pollen and nectar, making them toxic to bees. Four years ago, there was uncertainty about the impact these insecticides were having on bees. Research published since then clearly shows how neonicotinoids are killing bees or changing their behaviors”. *(from the Xerces Society, please see article on this webpage).*

**City of Madison Parks—**

According to Eric Knepp, Madison Parks Superintendent, a great deal of effort has been made to eliminate the threat of neonicotinoids to the pollinator population. “All neonicotinoid use has been eliminated in developed Madison parks,” Knepp says. Currently, the city is working on removing neonics from all Madison cemeteries and golf courses. According to Knepp, “We are making progress and are determined to totally eliminate neonics on lands under our control.”

**Dane County Parks—**

Dane County Parks are working to protect the pollinator population by instituting a long-term program to eliminate neonicotinoids from lands controlled by Dane County Parks. Darren Marsh, Parks Director of Dane County Parks, said “We have prioritized areas in our park system such as prairies and wildlife habitat areas where we have begun to eliminate neonics to help our pollinator population.” There is some neonic pesticide use by farmers on non-developed land and recent land acquisition sites, but the long-term goal is to eliminate the use of neonics there, as well.

**Town of Middleton—**

At Pope Farm Conservancy, neonicotinoid crops via treated seeds are used for growing **sunflowers, soybeans and corn**. Neonicotinoids are known to kill bees, and these crops are grown adjacent to sensitive prairies (used by the pollinators).