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# THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



October 2025 Issue

## A message from your City Engineer

Recently, we sent out our annual Waterways newsletter to residents throughout the City. Each year, I receive a number of compliments from residents on this newsletter, appreciating the information that we've included, as well as the work we do in the City to protect our waters and the environment. Writing and assembling the articles and images, along with contracting for printing and mailing is a lot of work and involves a number of staff from our Division, and I just want to express my appreciation for that huge effort. I also want to give a shout out to the City's Document Services group who help put together the newsletter; they do some incredible work! If you haven't had a chance to read the latest issue of Waterways, we do have that available on our Engineering website, and one of the articles is featured below, along with the link! Also, if you have ideas for articles for future editions of Waterways, please feel free to share those with Hannah.

## Impressive to the Eye, Innovative to our City:

### John Nolen Drive Stormwater Design

Author and Contributor: Engineer Phil Gaebler

The John Nolen Drive reconstruction is a generational project, years in the making. The City is about to see the transformation of the roadways, bridges and open space right next to the beautiful lakes we've all come to love. While the road and bridge construction project and the Madison Lakeway will be impressive to the eye, another element of the construction that you may not notice, but which will have a significant impact, is the innovative stormwater treatment system that underpins the design.

The JND stormwater treatment system is a combination of three proven technologies; catch basins, bioretention systems and a tree soil support system. These technologies work in concert to filter pollution and maximize tree health. The catch basins are oversized underground concrete structures with extra space in the bottom where sediment will be trapped. Twice a year this sediment can be easily sucked out by the City's Vactor trucks. Catch basins are effective at capturing sand and road grit but don't do a great job at capturing the smaller particles like silt or clay.



Downstream of the catch basins, water flows into a bioretention area that has a mix of sand and compost. The bioretention area is planted with deep rooted native plants which maintain the soils drainage and adds habitat for pollinators. The sand and compost mix is great at filtering out the finer pollutants from the road that catch basins miss (tire particles and brake dust and silt). Next to the bioretention area is a special tree support system. This system consists of heavy-duty plastic supports that look similar to a mix between Lego and milk crates. These plastic supports extend under the bike path and are filled with soil designed to maximize tree health. The plastic supports prevent the weight of the bike path from squishing all the air and moisture out of the soil under the path and allow the tree roots to extend under the path. Together, the system will treat runoff from John Nolen Drive to a baseline level and provide enhanced treatment for a few stretches of the road, all while giving the trees extra room to grow, extra water and improved drainage. The last design feature in the system is a valve to bypass the winter snow melt around the bioretention and tree support area.

While the City has implemented practices to minimize the amount of salt used on roads, snowmelt from major streets will inevitably contain salt which can damage trees and plants in the bioretention area. The only way to remove dissolved salt is through reverse osmosis, which is not a practical stormwater treatment system. Without a treatment option, the next best thing was to allow most of the salt laden runoff to by-pass the bioretention and trees in the winter and then reroute the water during the growing season. While running, biking or driving past the stormwater treatment area, most users will only notice that there is a small low spot between the path and the road and a small metal dome. However, now that you've read this article you know there is a lot going on below the surface.

Read more articles like this in our [2025 Waterways Newsletter](#), out now!

## Progress: City's Executive Operating and Capital Budgets

The latest on budget: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/budget/2026>

### 2026 Budget

#### Capital Budget

- ☒ [Budget Kickoff](#) PDF  
March 18, 2025
- ☒ [Agency Requests](#)  
April 18, 2025
- ☒ [Executive Budget](#)  
September 2, 2025
- ☐ [Finance Committee Hearings](#)  
September 8, 9, & 29, 2025
- ☐ [Common Council Hearings](#)  
November 11-13, 2025
- ☐ [Adopted Budget](#)  
January 2026

#### Operating Budget

- ☒ [Budget Kickoff](#) PDF  
June 16, 2025
- ☒ [Agency Requests](#)  
July 18, 2025
- ☐ [Executive Budget](#)  
October 7, 2025
- ☐ [Finance Committee Hearings](#)  
October 13, 14, & 27, 2025
- ☐ [Common Council Hearings](#)  
November 11-13, 2025
- ☐ [Adopted Budget](#)  
January 2026

[Executive Operating Budget Preview Press Conference](#)

## Log in Before Open Enrollment Begins

Please log into your [ESS](#) and review to make sure you have access before Oct. 6, 2025. If you need a password reset, please contact Help Desk (608) 266-4193.

For employees that need to update their email address, please do so before Oct. 6.

Go to ESS > Personal Information > Click "Edit" in the General Tab > Update "Email Address" > Click "Save".

Employee Self Service

Benefits

Expense Reports

Employee Notifications

Pay/Tax Information

Personal Information

Add/View Changes


Time Off

Time Entry

## Personal Information

GENERAL

DEMOGRAPHICS



Email address

Alternate email address

Primary location

ENGINEERING

Check location

ENGINEERING

Name

VANG, KONGMENG J

Preferred name

Employee ID

SSN

XXX-XX-XXXX

Active status

ACTIVE

Personnel status

PERMANENT FULL TIME

SAVE

CANCEL

## All Hands Meeting Updates

Our 2025 City of Madison Engineering Division All Hands Meeting is just two weeks away! All the pieces are coming together. Here are a few updates/reminders:

### Time/Date/Place:

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025, 1600 Emil Street, Madison, Wis.

### Food

Lunch will be provided. Please sign up to bring a side if you're able: [2025 Volunteer All Hands Sides Sign Up.docx](#)

### Drop Your Photos in the Slideshow!

Please drop your photos in the All Staff Photo Slideshow that plays before and after our All Hands Meeting on the big screen.

Drop them here:

DROP PROJECT, STAFF WORKING, HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR WORK THIS YEAR:



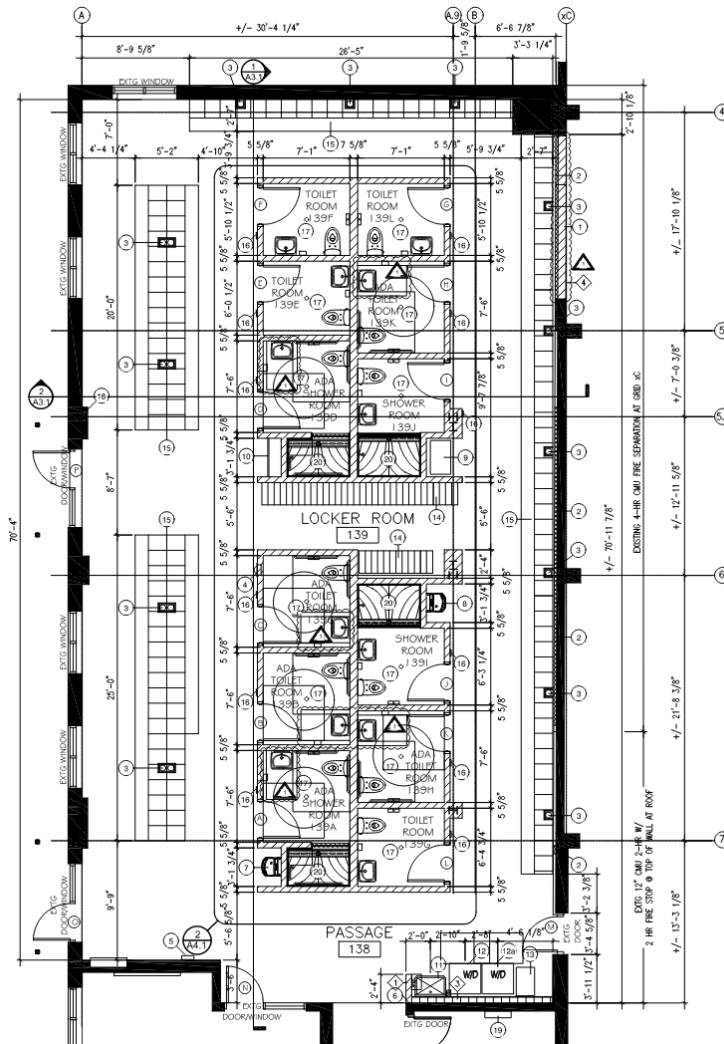
[2025 City of Madison Engineering Division Photo Slideshow Drop Folder](#)

### Transportation

Buses are scheduled to pick downtown staff up at 10:15 to 10:30 AM (leaving promptly at 10:30) on W Wilson Street at MLK Jr Blvd. Buses will return staff to CCB at 1pm. In the event Metro is not able to provide buses due to staffing issues, engineering staff will be notified by email in the morning, the day of the event. The fall back option is to catch the B route bus from Capitol Square at 10:22.

### Locker Room Contest

The new [Locker Room](#) at Emil Street will provide approximately 140 lockers and 12 private changing rooms. Of the 12 private rooms, 8 are restrooms and 4 are showering rooms. This model is similar to gender-neutral locker rooms used in recent Madison Fire Station designs.



As we prepare for construction of the new locker room, a temporary locker room and restroom facilities will be provided in the existing Break Room and Garage.

Consistent with [City of Madison Personnel Rules](#), and APMs 2-33, 2-52 and 3-5, users of the gender-neutral locker room and temporary facilities shall be good neighbors who clean up after themselves and assist each other to create positive habits. Personal items shall be collected from the locker and taken to a private changing room.

#### General project schedule:

Oct. 7	Contractor/bid approval at Common Council
Oct. 13-29	Contractor contract routing and execution
Oct. 31	Preparation of temporary locker room
Nov. 3	Contractor mobilizes on site
April 30, 2026	Substantial Completion

Additional updates will be provided during construction.

Reminder: Please submit your [contest entry](#) to Ryan Schmidt by 3:00 on October 14 for a chance to win a reserved parking space during construction.

## Equity Minute: October 2024

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This month brings awareness to an illness that affects 1 in 8 women in the United States of America.

Here are some facts about Breast Cancer:

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide, excluding skin cancer.
- When caught in its earliest, localized stages, the 5-year relative survival rate is 99%.
- There are currently over 4 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

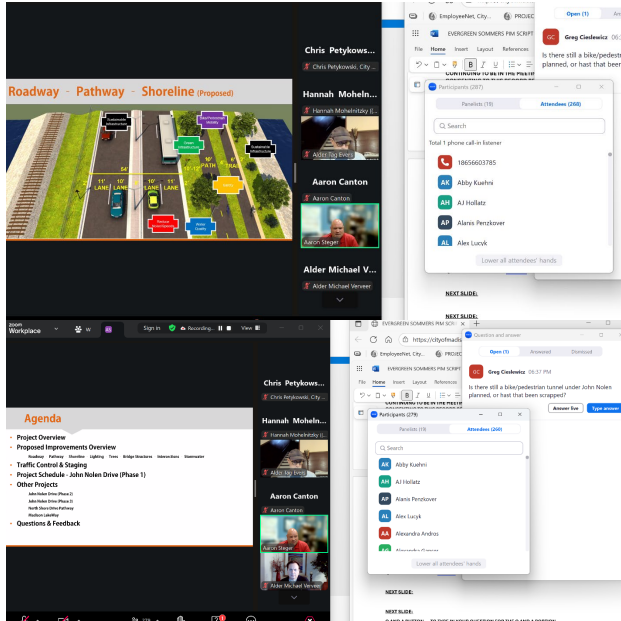


## Record Registrants for John Nolen Drive Public Information Meeting

City Engineering hosted a public information meeting on Sept. 22, 2025 to a record amount of people in attendance and record amount of people registered. The total number of people registered were 479, with the cap of our account being at 500. This is the largest public information meeting we've ever hosted. Great job to the project team and partners in this process for engagement and every detail that goes into this generational project.

The meeting materials are now available:

- [Sept. 22, 2025 Public Information Meeting Recording](#)
- [View the John Nolen Drive Project Page to learn more](#)



## PHOTOS: City hosts Community Stakeholders at New Bartillon Shelter



LIAM BERAN

Maria Delestre, construction manager in the city's engineering division, shows alders and the mayor where the Bartillon shelter's eventual kitchen space will be.

[Read the full article on the Isthmus.](#)



**PHOTOS: GreenPower Crew at Truax Apartments**



## Media Roundup

### Press Releases

- [Get a Sneak Peek at Student-Inspired Public Art at Warner Park Community Recreation Center](#) posted September 24, 2025
- [Project Update - Capital City Trail Storm Sewer Replacement](#) posted September 17, 2025
- [Road Closure — Mid Town Road](#) posted September 15, 2025
- [Project Update: Capital City Trail Storm Sewer Replacement](#) posted September 10, 2025
- [Capital City Trail Storm Sewer Replacement Project](#) posted September 8, 2025
- [Committee Seeking Artists for State Street Campus Garage Public Art](#) posted September 2, 2025

### Blogs

- [Explore the Lake Wingra Loop](#) posted September 18, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Boneset](#) posted September 4, 2025

### News Conferences

- [News Conference: Executive Operating Budget Preview September 30, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Greater Madison MPO Group Bus Ride September 29, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Executive Operating Budget Preview September 22, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Housing Forward Proposals September 9, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Executive Capital Budget Announcement September 2, 2025](#)

## 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*

It's been a busy month of video shoots prepping for the All Hands Meeting, but I'm finally in the editing stage. Everything else is coming along for the meeting, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on Oct. 21! We have had a busy month of hosting a number of people from the community for public information meetings. So many web updates and so many people attending! We had a record number of registrants for our John Nolen Drive Reconstruction PIM, almost meeting our cap of 500—a first in our history of virtual meetings! Great job to all teams putting these on, and being so prepared—makes my job easy.

### Public Works and Private Development

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

Public works engineers are working on design and approvals for 2026 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month include 8110 Midtown, Green Ave Resurfacing, Paragon Pl phase 3, 4001 Marsh Rd, Hill Valley Ph 1. Public Meetings for 2026 projects have begun and were held on Regent St, John Nolen Dr. John Nolen Dr is scheduled to start October 13. Midvale resurfacing went to Transportation Commission and will head to Board of Public Works and Council in the coming months. The Capital budget was proposed by the Mayor for 2026 projects, and will head to finance committee and council for approval.

#### Facilities Management

*Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management*

- Construction Phase > [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV](#), [Madison Public Market](#), [State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#), [Bartillon Shelter](#), [WPCRC Expansion](#), [CCB – DCR Offices](#), [Olin Waste Transfer Waste Drop-off Site](#), [South Madison Demolitions & Site Restorations](#), [East Streets Maintenance Facility Fire Sprinkler Replacement](#), [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#), [Village on Park - Site Improvements](#), [Fire Station 8 Lighting Retrofit](#)
- Bidding/Contract Phase > [Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#)
- Design Phase > [Streets Division - Far West Operations Building](#), [Central Library Lighting Retrofit](#), [Metro Transit Phase 3B – Admin and Dispatch Facility Improvements](#)
- Planning Phase > [Madison Police Department – South District and Police Evidence Operations](#), [Parks Yahara Golf Maintenance Facility](#), [Engineering Clean Fill Site](#)

#### Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

*Wayne Brown, Foreperson*

Last month, all of Engineering joined forces like a ragtag group of Hogwarts houses banding together against the Dark Arts. Our nemesis? The Hargrove Street Sewer Main from the Depths of Azkaban. Chris Scharf and his construction crews led the charge, armed with shovels instead of wands—digging, pumping, and casting “General Care-ium” until the beast was tamed. A huge thank you goes out to Capital Underground and Visu Sewer, our steadfast Order of the Phoenix allies, whose determination and assistance brought extra strength to the battle and helped tip the scales toward victory.

Of course, no battle is complete without the Vector crews—our loyal Patronuses—ever present, swooping in to keep the area safe from backups (or as we call them, “You-Know-What in the Basement”).

Now that the Dark Main has been defeated, we return to our true magical calling: maintenance. The Vector crews are polishing off PM’s and ACs for the year and preparing for the great Storm Clean Push, which is basically our version of Quidditch playoffs.

Meanwhile, construction crews are busy restoring waterways and tackling repairs conjured up by the all-seeing Eye of Saur —er, I mean, Jason and his CCTV crews. It’s “Short Liner Season,” which means they’ll be working full tilt until the snow flies —like Hufflepuffs cramming for O.W.L.s.

And then there’s Jay and his MI-TE crew. Picture them as the Weasley twins let loose in the Forbidden Forest with heavy equipment, equal parts chaos, brilliance, and just enough noise to make Filch come running. They tackle jobs with the enthusiasm of a first-year shouting “Wingardium Leviosa!” for the first time, and somehow, through equal parts skill and wizardry, the work gets done—louder, flashier, and with a little extra flair.

John and the locators? They’re basically the Marauder’s Map. If it exists, they’ll find it.

And mowing? Oh yes, the mowing crews are as busy as Alastor “Mad-Eye” Moody in a butt-kicking contest—only with more grass clippings stuck in their robes.

All in all, it’s chaos, it’s magic, and we wouldn’t have it any other way. Mischief managed!

#### Stormwater

*Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

As we roll into fall projects are still going strong! Capital City Bikepath storm sewer replacement is starting up soon and will provide some major improvements to the failing system. Pheasant Branch Greenway Enhancement is getting ready to wrap up for the season but still a few more things to finish. That project will commence again in 2026. The Manitou / Nakoma Box culvert work is still chugging along with a companion project for the extension to the pond coming in 2026. Stricker’s forebay project is busy relocating turtles and frogs and will start work for dredging later this fall and finally, while the NE Pond in Sun Prairie is kicking off, which will include fixing the failing shoreline along the HWY 151. Mineral Point Road is getting ready to bid, which is another large flood mitigation project that will install a box culvert and a 108” diameter tunnel under Mineral Point Road. We are anxious to see how the bids come back for that one! Project assignments for the upcoming 2026 projects are doled out and we are on the verge of kicking into another round of design season. Big projects on the horizon include the designs for Lost City (Carver/Martin area), Regent Street box replacement (from Park to Randall), and the BRT on Park Street, which includes a lot of utility upgrades. These big projects will be multi-year designs to keep everyone busy. Project work is pretty constant with all the 2025-2026 designs and the private development work. Thank you everyone for all your hard work this year!

#### Sanitary Sewer

*Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

The 2025 City street projects that include sewer replacement are now under construction or are now completed. The 2026 street projects are now being assigned or are now under design. Designers are reminded to check borings and the time of year when borings were completed to verify groundwater level and to plan to bid Type 2 dewatering if groundwater anticipated. Also, Please be sure to keep Angie in the loop regarding contaminated soils and groundwater. The WDNR sewer extension reviews are moving at a faster rate of late- down to 4 weeks on a recent submittal. Please try to apply for sewer extensions early if you are able and quickly respond to any concerns. Thank you for keeping these projects on schedule. Our next infill private apartment development where we have sewer infrastructure impacts (new offsite sewer) is 1617 Sherman Ave. We have permitting from one of the two railroads for the sewer crossing from Fordem to E. Johnson St., and we still need to go through the City approval process for bidding starting early October. We are most likely looking at a November bid for this project. Lift Stations Projects: Truax L.S.: This project is theoretically complete; however, we continue to have ongoing problems with the lift station shutting down because of power problems to the lift station. We continue to review solutions. The Badger Lift Station Replacement is now partially designed with construction is planned for Late Fall/ Winter bidding and 2026 construction. Mayflower L.S. is now under design for 2026 construction.

#### Land Information/Official Map

*Jeff Quamme, Section Manager*

- Continuing - Engineering Tech and IT is working on issues with the Storm Water Billing Script with the Assessor’s Office. Goal to significantly reduce the parcel errors to a management amount each month.
- Upcoming work on possible jurisdictional transfer of parts of roads from DOT to the City. There will be a lot of identification of affected right of way lands and research.
- Continued support with BRT project. N – S Transportation plat coordination ongoing.

- Continued assistance with acquisitions for safe streets for Traffic.
- Assisting Planning with mapping and descriptions for Zoning overlay districts throughout the City to be completed mid October.
- Continued work on multiple engineering projects with research, easements, title and solutions regarding needs to accomplish many City projects.
- Real Estate projects, vacations, research and relocation orders for several engineering, planning, transportation and water projects
- S High Point TPP review and coordination for required acquisitions.
- 911 Address Point population is ongoing along with all other addressing demands throughout the City.
- Private development work is still extensive. A lot of demands, among complex projects requiring staff to commit much time and effort to keep the projects on track. Affects all facets of the Land Information group. (Addressing, reviews, storm water, official mapping, real estate projects, eminent domain projects, coordination of utility rights and agreements, etc)
- Mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to attach in 2027 as time permits.
- Continued consistent updating of base mapping with new documents of record and updating of areas in need of adjustment spatially that are not accurately mapped as they are discovered.

## Engineering Technology

*Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager*

- Nearing the end of getting Address Point and storm billing workflows to work with new CAMA system (so close)
  - Start testing Address Point workflows in ArcPro with attribute rules
- Programming into ACC private development workflows such as Authorization to Proceed and tracking expenses against deposits. Did initial demo to the private development group to gain feedback
- Finalized SewerAI workflows CityWorks and using it for both CCTV and coding
- Wrapping up CityWorks upgrade with IT
- Wrapping up all of the PW front end contract documentation automated where possible, and into ACC. Supporting ACC Assets for gathering field quantities on construction projects
- Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
- Working on developing GIS Consortium with other GIS agencies and IT to help manage and create governance around workflows and processes in the City to make tasks more efficient.
- Ongoing
  - Setting up CAD standards, templates and efficiency improvements
  - Data Governance – Working on data training. Looking at City-wide data warehouse.
  - E911 Addressing Points with Dane County
  - Misc CityWorks updates and maintenance
  - Sanitary & Storm record updates – working on sanitary and storm backlog

## Administration Staff

*Johanna Johnson, Heidi Fleegel, Jenna Webb*

Routing a contract, agreement or document for City signature? Check the routing block on the signature page. The clerk's signature line should identify Lydia A. McComas as City Clerk.

Our team will be checking the signature line as well.

October deadline for Common Council resolutions is 8 a.m. on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. (CC meeting 10/28)

Board of Public Works resolutions are due by 12 p.m. on Wednesday October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 22<sup>nd</sup>. (BPW meeting 10/8 and 10/29)

## Finance

*Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager*

As difficult as it is to believe, the end of the year is rapidly approaching. All staff are asked to help identify any reimbursable costs that can be billed out now to reduce the workload later in the year. This would include things such as billable workorders, utility compensable work done by Public Works contracts and change orders that are the responsibility of other parties. We need to get these billed out as soon as possible in order to make sure they get paid before the end of the year. It is also a good time of year to look into any consultant contracts to ensure that all work has been billed to the City and that any contracts where the work is complete are formally closed out, as well as making sure that contracts do not expire before all work is complete. If there is a contract that is about to expire but is not complete yet, please make sure to get an amendment executed before the contract term date. Once a contract expires, it can no longer be extended.

## Construction Inspection

*Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

Public Works and Private Development construction is still ongoing and keeping staff busy. Surveys for 2026 are still being completed as soon as possible. Spec updates will be due the end of October for them to be shared with Contractors at the fall Contractors meeting in November and BPW adoption in December.

## Coming and Going

- New Hires
  - Gretchen Aviles Pineiro (she/her) (Public Works and Private Development Manager 2)
  - Katy Lisseth (she/her) Custodial Worker 1)
- Promotion
  - None
- Departures
  - Wesley Tateh (he/him) (Conservation Ecology Trainee)
  - Zachary Gaier (he/him) (Construction Inspection Hourly)
  - Eric Estock (he/him) (Construction Inspection Hourly)
  - Kian Robelia (he/him) (Construction Inspection Hourly)

## 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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