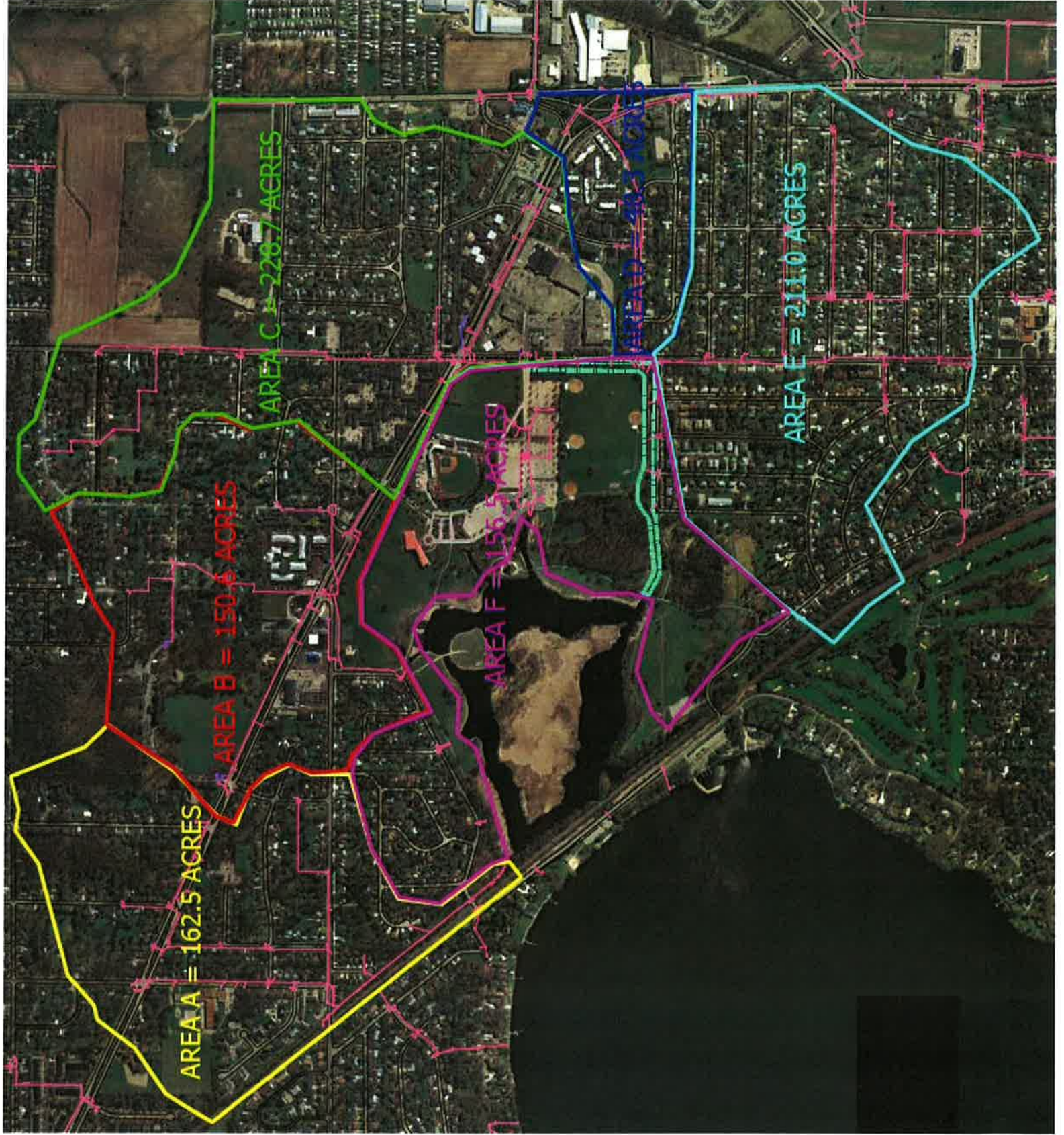


I'm Jim Carrier, one of the founders of Wild Warner.

Thanks in large part to this committee, especially Jim Bennett, and Alder Weier, the mayor is expected to announce Wednesday that Rhythm and Booms will be moving out of Warner Park. I'm told that the waters of Lake Monona will now enjoy the fallout.

Because you have new members, I wanted to brief you on what we found this year, and what we propose going forward. I've given you several pages of photos that you can follow:

1. Warner's wetland is 60 acres in size. It collects storm water from an enormous watershed -- nearly 1,000 acres of Madison's northeast corner. (958 acres). Were it not for this sponge, Lake Mendota would have murky, polluted, delta on its eastern shore. Warner's wetland, in other words, is doing what wetlands have always done. The down side, of course, is that the wetland is degraded. It is filling up with debris. It is polluted with heavy metals and pesticides, not to mention plastic bottles. There is little we can do about this. At least with present technology. No more than we can move the railroad which blocked the lake from the old swamp a century ago, except for one 10-foot tunnel.
2. The second page, on top, is DNR's wetland map. And below that is an aerial photograph of an island that was created half a century ago when the city dredged the swamp.
3. The next page shows that island in 2005, and again in 2011. What has changed, is tons of sand that were brought in to bunker the large mortars, 8,10, 12 inches across, used by Rhythm & Booms. The required 3 feet of sand to fortify and aim them into the wetland.
4. The next page shows the hill, and a typical fireworks show. The problem was, R&B was bringing fill into a wetland without a permit. We brought this to the attention of DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers. They inspected have determined that R&B and the city have been violating the Clean Water Act for years. So this year DNR required that any sand brought in, must be removed.
5. The next page shows some of the debris from this year's fireworks, just off the shooting island. There were at least 20 of these orange caps from the mortars in the water, along with ropes and fuses used to assemble the bombs.
6. On the next page you get an idea, at the top, of the size of the sand mountain that has been built over the years. It is 10 feet high, 350 feet around, 90-feet wide and 150 feet. At the bottom is this year's sand mixed with the charred dirt left from the fireworks. You can see the black soil on the next page. We have asked DNR, and they say they will require, the city to remove this sand mountain, as mitigation for the years of violation.
7. The last page shows a bit of our vision. And I'm here to ask your support. Though degraded by storm water, and other pollution, Warner's wetland is the heart of a natural area that supports 135 species of birds, turtles - including the threatened Blanding's species, amphibians, fish and mammals. It is deserving of the respect and legal protection of our marquee wetlands. The difference is that kids from the housing projects can walk across the street and be in a wetland.
8. We would like your help in focusing attention on this wetland, specifically to help turn the "shooting island" into a "wetland education island" where kids can watch turtles lay eggs, they can help plant wetland plants, they can fish, they can watch birds, they can learn about nature- and the value of wetlands - all from a resurrected island surrounded by water.



Warner Park Wetland and "shooting island" (DNR)



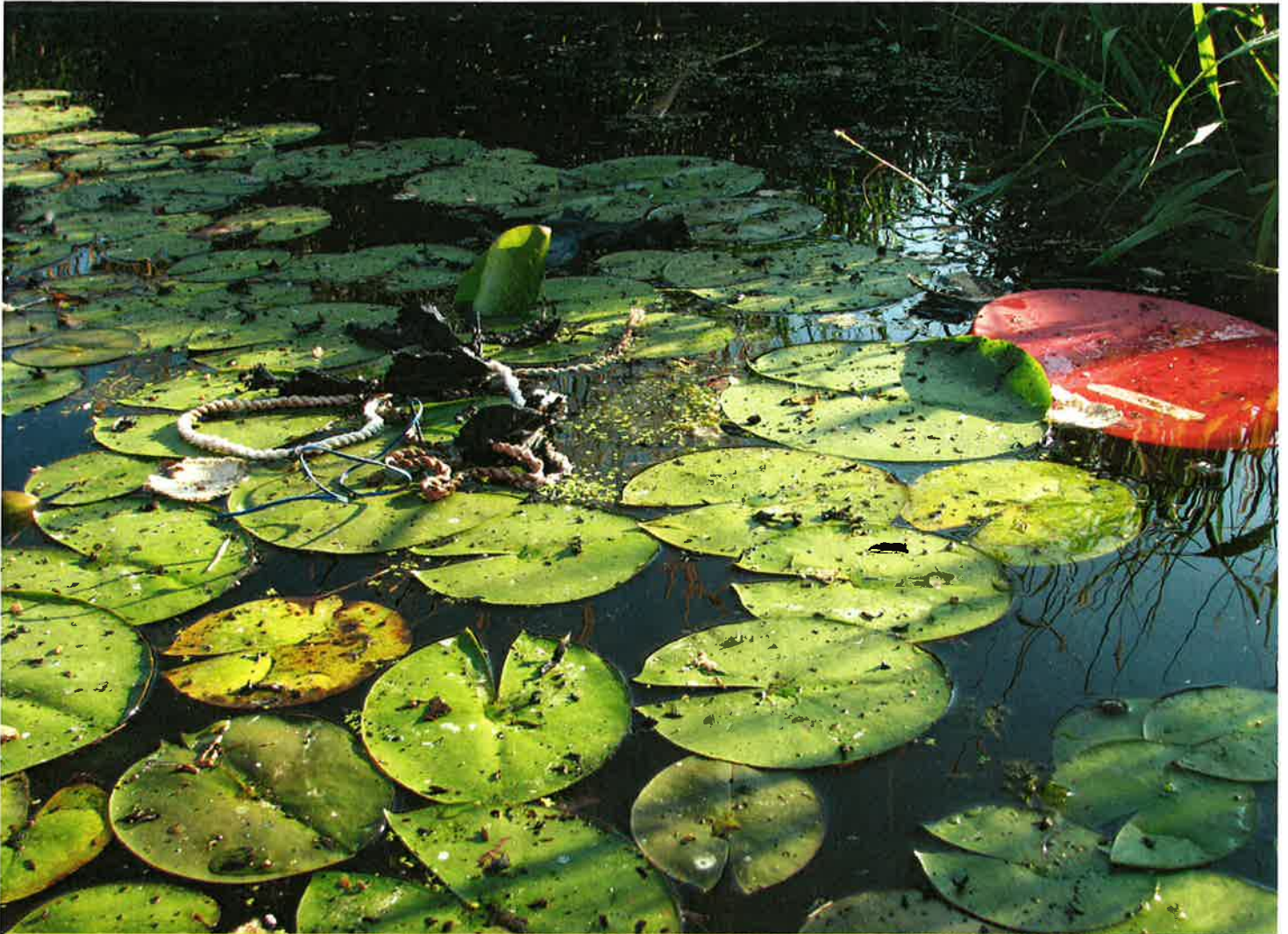
Warner's "Shooting Island" 2005 - 2011



R&B fireworks 2011



Warner Wetland July 4, 2013



Sand and debris mountain July 7, 2013



Black soil July 1-7, 2013





**Warner Park's future wetland**

