

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Preserve Staff Reports –October 21, 2015

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director

We have successfully completed the first step in our 2016 budget and work plan development with our first stakeholders meeting. There were good questions about current projects and discussion on the need to continue fundraising for the Preserve and its annual operating budget needs. The Stewardship Fund continues to be used for regular maintenance activities and will likely only last another few years if significant additional funds are not found. The University continues to cover the three full-time staff and part-time director with salary and benefits funding. The Preserve survived last year's budget reductions but it is unclear if it will escape state funding cuts in the future. All the more reason for additional fundraising activities to support the Preserve.

As the 2015 Campus Master Plan Update continues in development, it is important that the Preserve Committee and stakeholders become involved in that process. Several recommendations impact the Preserve, namely the area around Observatory Hill, the Lot 34 Parking Lot east of Tripp Hall to Elizabeth Waters Hall, and the area around Lot 60 and the Triangle Marsh. Willow Creek is also highlighted as a key area in the Landscape Master Plan recommendations. Alternatives will be shared at the October Preserve Committee meeting. A public information meeting is being held at 7 PM on October 27 in the Health Science Learning Center, Room 1352 that will provide an overview of all the initial alternatives planned in areas across the campus. Everyone is invited to attend.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

- 1) Four new permits have been issued since the September meeting including:

Title	Department
Geocache - Park It	None
Soil bioassay of pesticides applied to buckthorn as cut-stump treatments	Agronomy
How slope affects species distribution -Eagle Heights Woods	Botany - Ecology 460
Soil nutrient comparison between urban and rural environments	Botany - Ecology 460

- 2) Thanks to Preserve Committee members for 100% response to serving on the following teams and subcommittees: **Education:** David Drake, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia; **Planning and Implementation:** Sara Hotchkiss, Alan Turnquist; **Communication:** Jacob Hahn; **Preserve Executive Team:** Phil Townsend; **Students for the Preserve reorganization team:** Anne Pearce, Katya Mullendore and Paul Metscher. Please note the December Preserve Committee meeting has been moved to Wednesday, **December 9th**.
- 3) Dan Schwartz, UW Grounds arborist, and I walked the Temin Path to identify hazard trees (marked with a dark red dot). Approximately 30 trees have been identified for removal/significant pruning. About 80% are green ash that are experiencing dead and declining tops and/or significant faults in the trunk. These trees pose a hazard because of their proximity to high value targets. . .people on the path. We did not consider pruning/removing trees that would simply fall into the lake upon further decline. Special consideration was given to trees providing value in maintaining the integrity of the bank and where selective removal of dead limbs/tops would reduce hazards and provide value to the lake edge. There are about 10 trees in this category and they are marked with a red horizontal line. An additional 5 to 7 trees have been identified for removal on the main Picnic Point path. Most of the latter are oaks impacted by oak wilt disease. We will be working with UW Communications to draft a press release on these tree removals.
- 4) I continue to meet with stakeholders to increase communication and establish written protocols and processes with the goal of more efficient operation and management. Along with monthly participation on the Eagle Heights Community Garden Oversight Committee, I attended an informal dinner meeting hosted by FH King that brought together students, faculty and stakeholders involved with the CALS field research plots and surrounding land at Eagle Heights Gardens; all within the Preserve boundary.

CAPITAL PROJECTS-Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

- 1) **West Campus Stormwater Project:** Phase 1 construction at Eagle Heights and University Houses is complete and turned over to UW Housing for on-going maintenance. Phase 2 at University Bay Drive Bioswales and at the Lot 60 Pond are complete. The contractor has some minor pieces to finish and are still contracted to maintain these latter two areas.
- 2) **Eagle Heights Apartments Storage Shed & Recycling Lot:** consultants are preparing construction plans for combining the two existing lots into one, add a new storage shed, add containment bins for loose materials storage, provide runoff mitigation, and add large and small dumpster storage. Expected construction is in 2016.
- 3) **Haight Road Reconstruction:** consultants are preparing construction plans for repaving the road, adding a sidewalk to the south edge of the road, repairing erosion down the slope, and containing runoff and lighting for the sidewalk. Expected construction is in 2016.
- 4) **West Natatorium Recreation Fields:** consultants are working with university staff to determine the best solution for upgrading the multiple field sports occurring at this site. This site is bounded by the band practice field, the Temin Lakeshore Path, Willow Creek, Observatory Drive, and Walnut Street. The use will remain as recreation fields similar to existing. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be conducted with a scoping meeting on November 12, 2015 at 5 pm in room 132 WARF.
- 5) **Fire Circle #6:** the fire pit has been reconstructed with a cut granite surround replacing the cut limestone blocks that were disintegrating.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- 1) Eagle Heights Woods – Good Oak Ecological Services completed follow-up treatment of buckthorn resprouts and seedlings in the Indian Mounds Zone. Planned fall/winter implementation includes woody debris pile removal, Central Zone brush removal, and hazard tree removal.
- 2) Brush Chipping – Boley Tree Service completed chipping of piles staged on Picnic Point, east lakeshore path, and other locations.
- 3) Gard Circle renovations – installed new limestone screenings in the circle gathering space, a new limestone path extending from the circle toward the stairway path in Muir Woods, and a new plantings at the entrance to the circle.
- 4) Bench site maintenance – pruned veiwsheds from benches on Picnic Point and the Temin Lakeshore path and laid fresh wood chips where appropriate ahead of Homecoming weekend.
- 5) Maintained Picnic Point fire circles.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

- 1) Between Sept. 23 and Oct 11 we had 89 volunteers donate 178 hours to cutting woody invasive plants at the base of Picnic Point and collecting seed in Biocore Prairie. Thirteen campus and community groups participated in these volunteer work events.
- 2) We are making preparations for a work event with the Naval ROTC in Muir Woods on November 7th. The Grounds Department is working with us to supply mulch for trails and extra tools for about 55 midshipmen.
- 3) Our Fall E-newsletter is coming out soon. If anyone has any ideas for articles for this issue or future issues please let me know.