



University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – December 5, 2016

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

From an administrative standpoint, we are pleased to present our initial draft 2017 Work Plan, Operating Budget and Capital Budget as we progress into the new year. You'll be happy to know that we continue to be supported here in FP&M financially from a staffing and maintenance standpoint. I'll keep everyone posted as we start the university's budget process early in 2017 for the new fiscal year starting in July 2017. That doesn't mean we don't need to continue our private fundraising initiatives to support our long range goal of maintaining and managing this wonderful place we call the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Please take some time over the next two months to review these initial draft documents and provide us with your input. We will review them again on January 24<sup>th</sup> at our 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder meeting and then again at our February Preserve Committee meeting for action. Thank you again for all your good work this semester! Your advice and guidance is always appreciated.

**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Tis the season for thanksgiving, reflection and celebration! Days have been busy reviewing the current year's budget, projecting remaining expenses for the next four months and looking ahead to 2017. This work is driven by our work planning process which has engaged both staff and stakeholders.

Gift funds support approximately 36% of our projected 2017 budget and are responsible for significant improvements such as the kiosk at Picnic Point, which was possible due to a bequest the Preserve received in 2011. To keep from eroding our savings, we need to raise more than \$80,000 annually. During this season of giving, we have been working to nurture philanthropic support for the Preserve through several outreach efforts. On Tuesday, November 29 we participated in the "Day of Giving" with a post on our Facebook page which was retweeted. An appeal card will be mailed to all who have supported the Preserve with previous gifts and an e-mail solicitation is being developed for those who we keep in touch with through our wisclist e-mailings.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS** - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

**Projects in and adjacent to the Preserve:**

West Campus Stormwater: Contractor continues maintenance, Preserve to assume management in fall 2017.

Haight Road Reconstruction: Construction complete fall 2016.

Housing Storage Shed and Recycling lot: Re-bid will begin construction in 2017.

Near West Recreation Fields: Under construction, completion in spring 2017.

Willow Creek Sediment Trap: City of Madison project to create a concrete sediment trap in Willow Creek at the city storm outfall. Bidding – expect construction in late 2016 and into 2017.

**Projects in the Preserve:**

Preserve kiosk at Picnic Point entrance: Funded with proceeds from the Dugan Fund. Project includes installation of a kiosk and aesthetic improvement of the pedestrian entrance. Installation completed. Planting to occur in spring 2017.

Tree island improvements: Plan created to improve biodiversity of tree and boulder island at intersection of Eagle Heights Gardens, CALS, and Biocore Prairie. Volunteers have been weeding and planting the northeast quarter of the island.

Picnic Point Gate: Installation of an automatic gate opener and refurbish iron gates. Currently in design.

Fire Circle 3 Restoration: Funded by an individual donor. Project includes replacing the benches, installing a permanent fire pit, making improvements to the path and slope to the sandy area and removing invasive vegetation and re-planting with native species.

**LAND MANAGEMENT** - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator**Eagle Heights Woods Project:**

1. Good Oak Ecological Services has a small section of the Central zone to finish buckthorn resprout control. Starting later in December, crews will begin initial invasive brush removal work in the South Zone, girdle/basal treatment of the black locust population in the north end of the Mounds Zone as well as other undesirable tree species throughout the area.
2. Wolfe Tree Service will address hazard trees in the vicinity of the Indian mounds later this winter, given adequate frozen ground conditions.

**Field Work:**

1. Have been performing cut-stem herbicide applications to resprouts and saplings of invasive brush in sections of Picnic Point where initial brush removal was completed in previous years.
2. Prescribed fire – though several days were identified this fall as potential burn windows in the forecast, when the days arrived conditions were not conducive to achieving goals and meeting smoke dispersal prescription. Spring 2017 will likely be the next opportunity to conduct burns.
3. Assessing site conditions and identifying potential opportunities for herbicide applications to first-year garlic mustard populations.

**OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS** – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

Despite the very chilly morning on November 20, we had 34 volunteers join us to pull and cut buckthorn in Muir Woods (behind Liz Waters Residence Hall) including 32 student volunteers and 2 community members. Groups that participated: Mu Kappa Tau, Chancellors Scholars, and 200 Fraternity.

Our last drop-in volunteer work party for 2016 is December 10 at Frautschi Point.

The 5 new on-going volunteers have received training and have been active in the Preserve. One volunteer has been working to organize our tools and equipment, and the trail monitors have been walking designated sections of the trail and reporting on issues that need attention.

Three reviewers—Sara Hotchkiss, Ann Burgess, and Jacob Hahn—are currently looking at the beta test website. We have asked that they submit their feedback by Dec. 9. Final changes to the website will be made before the Christmas holiday

and the launch is expected to happen the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January. In mid-January we will announce the new website via our email lists, and we will work with the FP&M Communications Director to find other opportunities to promote the site.

If anyone is interested in working with Preserve staff to develop a Preserve outreach plan to campus over the next year, please let me know.