

2011 Work Plan – Status Report

1) Land Management

- Control and monitor invasive species, with importance given to new invaders such as porcelain berry and Japanese hedge parsley, first documented in the Preserve in 2010.

Status: Volunteers have continued to contribute hundreds of hours to ongoing control of invasive plants. Control of the porcelain berry epidemic scale population is, and will be, ongoing. A few scattered occurrences of hedge parsley were removed from Frautschi Point and control of isolated plants will continue as a priority.

- Develop burn plans for Biocore Prairie, Raymer's Cove, Upper Bill's Woods Savanna, and the northern edge of Biocore prairie along Second Point Woods.

Status: Burns were planned but not executed in the spring due to weather conditions. Fall burn plans are in the works.

- Manage vegetation in Muir Woods, along the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path, and along the Picnic Point main path.

Status: Vegetation management (to control vines and invasive shrubs and to maintain views to the lake) took place in all three areas and more is planned for the fall.

- Increase plant species diversity through supplemental seeding and planting in areas already under management, such as the University Bay shoreline at Picnic Point.

Status: Planting occurred in many areas of the Preserve and has been summarized in a separate PowerPoint presentation. Fall seeding is planned for many areas where we removed invasive shrubs and vines.

- Develop Indian mound management policy implementation guidelines.

Status: A campus wide policy on mound management was reviewed by the Preserve Committee and the Arboretum Committee and subsequently approved by the Campus Planning Committee. Further work is needed on detailed vegetation management policies under specific vegetation management plans for each area that has Indian mounds.

- Manage vegetation on the Indian mounds in Picnic Point and Willow Creek Woods.

Status: Daniel Einstein mowed the Willow Creek Woods mounds. Adam Gundlach mowed the Picnic Point Indian mounds twice to maintain views of the mound contours. Vegetation between the Picnic Point mounds was left for biodiversity and aesthetics.

- Maintain and improve erosion control projects on Picnic Point and along the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path to minimize the impacts of erosion to Preserve lands and Lake Mendota.

Status: No work has been performed specifically to implement erosion control other than work currently being done on the eastern tip of Picnic Point.

- Work with the Arboretum and Madison Parks Department to allow brush burning as a management tool in the Preserve.

Status: Follow-up is needed to continue to push for reversal of the recently approved City of Madison ordinance to ban brush pile burning.

2) Outreach

- Build the volunteer program by:
 - Expanding outreach through social media.
 - Developing informational brochures.
 - Updating the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website on an on-going basis.
 - Increasing student and community group participation.
 - Increasing use of the Preserve by faculty and students for university coursework.
 - Continuing to develop on-going partnerships with organizations, including the Friends of the Preserve, Students for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, etc.

Status: The Preserve Facebook page was established in February 2011. Website updates are being implemented on a regular basis. Recruitment of new and repeat student and community organizations is ongoing. Student and faculty use of the Preserve is more integrated into our management, improving the student experience and our management effectiveness. See below for training services provided for Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

- Provide site based and virtual information through temporary work activity signs, audio trail recordings, and the website.

Status: Temporary site description and work activity signs were updated (with the help of a volunteer) and installed this summer. Signs that were no longer relevant were removed. No changes were made to the existing audio trail.

- Plan for and provide volunteer training for field activities including recommendations for certification.

Status: A safety training program series was developed and provided in partnership with the UW Arboretum to provide training especially for Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve volunteers. Five Friends members participated and at least 2 of them are interested in helping to apply herbicide in the field under the supervision of Preserve staff.

- Begin development of a coordinated communication plan for the Preserve.

Status: Preserve and Landscape Architecture staff implemented new signs and web updates for policy outreach and project activity updates.

3) Site Infrastructure

- Maintain trails and work with campus partners for user safety and enjoyment of the Preserve.

Status: Implemented bicycle policy change for Picnic Point with temporary signage, and ordered permanent signs to be installed this fall.

- Implement signage plan.

Status: Trailhead signs and kiosks have been designed for future implementation.

- Install benches as donations allow.

Status: Benches that have been donated have been installed. Three new cast iron “front country” benches were installed, replacing existing temporary benches. Four wood slab, “back country” benches were installed.

- Maintain Picnic Point pit toilets (Custodial Department) and routinely remove trash (Waste and Recycling Department).

Status: Ongoing.

- Remove hazard trees, control erosion, and install safety signs and barriers (Grounds Department).

Status: Ongoing

- Maintain bike paths, roads and parking areas, including the access road in Eagle Heights gardens and along the main Picnic Point path at the Narrows. (Grounds Department).

Status: Ongoing. Picnic Point path work delayed until end of construction truck traffic.

4) Administrative Support

- Provide support for the Preserve Committee and subcommittees.

Status: Ongoing.

- Manage research and recreation permits.

Status: Ongoing

- Assist with capital project planning.

Status: Ongoing

- Develop annual budgets and work plans.

Status: Starting the process for FY2012.

- Provide development opportunities for UW Foundation fund raising and financial support to continue building the Preserve endowment and stewardship resources.

Status: The Preserve director is working with the UW Foundation to draft an annual giving program and long range development plan for the Preserve.

- Begin the development of a strategic planning initiative to build on the overall vision and future of the Preserve.

Status: No action to date.

5) Capital Project Support (alpha order by name, not prioritized)

- Bills Woods accessible birding area - Add a wheel chair turnout to the limestone screening path at the base of Bill's Woods to provide an accessible bird viewing area.

Status: Completed.

- Eastern Bills Woods Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Restoration Project - Continue to control invasive plants, add native plants, and develop a burn plan for Upper Bills Woods.

Status: Garlic mustard was pulled and new native plants were added in the spring. A prescribed burn was scheduled for a small portion of the woods in the spring of 2011, but weather conditions prevented execution.

- Class of 1918 Marsh trail - Restore the limestone screening trail that has washed away; renovate/rebuild the degraded viewing platforms.

Status: Re-establishment of the south trail is scheduled for late fall by the UW Grounds staff. Refurbishing of existing benches is a potential project late fall. The existing viewing platform may not require reconstruction.

- Class of 1946 Frautschi Point entry improvements - Install native landscaping at the entry to Frautschi Point in and around the parking lot.

Status: Not started yet. Will need to be deferred to spring 2012.

- Class of 1953 Lakeshore Path improvements - Continue to increase the diversity of plants from Willow Creek to Picnic Point with new swale and shoreline vegetation, including the Triangle Marsh.

Status: Planting completed by volunteers and staff. The areas will be over-seeded this fall.

- Class of 1955 Tent Colony Woods improvements - Continue to control invasive plants, add a diversity of native woodland plants, and control erosion.

Status: A contractor will perform buckthorn and honeysuckle removal this fall. The gully in central Tent Colony Woods was planted this spring by volunteers and staff.

- Class of 1959 Picnic Point fire site improvements - Control soil erosion, protect the big Oak tree, allow lake access, and install an improved rustic fire seating area at picnic site #2.

Status: Project deferred until 2012 while the eastern tip of Picnic Point is finished.

- Eagle Heights Stormwater Management Plan - Monitor design and provide review and input into the planning & design process.

Status: Engineering consultants have been hired by the State and initial concept plans have been developed on how to manage stormwater in and around Eagle Heights. Detailed construction plans will be developed later this fall.

- Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan - Begin development of a restoration and management plan.

Status: On-going. A graduate student in landscape architecture, working with Prof. Evelyn Howell, has begun gathering historic and field data about Eagle Heights Woods in anticipation of developing a management plan for this area.

- Heritage Oak: Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Vegetation Management Project – first year plans to remove invasive plants, seed cleared areas, and plant savanna vegetation under the drip line of the Heritage Oak.

Status: Brush clearing directly west, north and south of the oak was completed by volunteers and staff. Volunteers and staff planted under the drip line of the oak. The area will be over seeded this fall. The Grounds Storage berm was sprayed twice and will be seeded this fall.

- Lot 60 Stormwater Management Plan - Monitor design and provide review and input into the planning & design process.

Status: Engineering consultants have been hired by the State and initial concept plans have been developed on how to manage stormwater in and around Lot 60. Detailed construction plans will be developed later this fall for a new wet basin north of Lot 60 in the area of the old impound lot.

- Picnic Point entry path improvements - Reroute the limestone screening path from the north to avoid the naturally wet soil conditions and allow maintenance and safety vehicle access.

Status: Not started.

- Picnic Point Improvements - Install shoreline stabilization, soil protection, plantings, pedestrian access, and fire site gathering circle improvements at the tip of Picnic Point.

Status: In progress.

- Willow Creek Woods Savanna restoration - Add seeds and plants, including trees and shrubs, that can be planted with a minimum of soil disturbance.

Status: Herbaceous plugs and small bare root trees and shrubs were planted this spring. Ground layer vegetation control and seeding is ongoing. A management plan will be a 2012-13 work plan project.

- University Bay Drive Stormwater Management Plan - Monitor design and provide review and input into the planning & design process.

Status: This is part of the overall West Campus Stormwater Management project that is underway to mitigate stormwater on the west campus and in Eagle Heights. See project notes above. Design is underway for future construction.
