



## 2012 Work Plan Annual Report

The following document provides an overview of the work completed in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve during fiscal year 2012 facilitated by staff within Facilities Planning & Management. The work plan is annually reviewed by Preserve staff and approved by the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee to provide guidance on priorities and initiatives to be undertaken in the year ahead.

### 1) LAND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Connect vegetation management areas into overall Preserve-wide management objectives as defined in the Preserve Master Plan.

*Status: Management sections of Picnic Point, Bills Woods, and the old-field edges are being integrated to allow more effective vegetation management. Most areas are being over-seeded this winter.*

- Expand prescribed burn program where site conditions allow and in conformance with the Preserve Master Plan.

*Status: The prescribed burn plan was updated in spring 2012, and outlines potential burn units throughout the Preserve. FP&M is in the process of developing prescribed burn protocols for the all UW-Madison properties.*

- Based on the Preserve Master Plan, inventory and map existing significant oaks in the Preserve and selectively remove lower quality competing trees around them to increase light levels.

*Status: We have continued over the winter to remove competing vegetation from around oaks in the Picnic Point upland and shoreline areas. Inventory and mapping are ongoing activities.*

- Survey, monitor, and control aggressive non-native plant species.

*Status: Volunteers have continued to contribute hundreds of hours to ongoing control of invasive plants. The control of the porcelain berry population was a focal point of management during this past summer and will continue to be a focus in the 2013 work plan. A few isolated occurrences of hedge parsley were removed from Frautschi Point. Follow-up control will continue as a priority.*

- Develop a vegetation management policy for areas on and around Indian mounds.

*Status: An Indian Burial Mound Management Policy was drafted and presented to the Preserve committee in 2011. Management of vegetation on and around the mounds focuses on maintaining adequate ground cover to prevent erosion, and controlling (e.g. cutting) vegetation to allow visibility of the mounds. A vegetation management policy is being drafted for all Indian mounds located on University property and will be presented to the Preserve Committee for review and approval in 2013.*

- Control resurgence of invasive species in areas already cleared.

*Status: Ongoing.*

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- Continue to establish native vegetation in sites that have been adequately prepared.

*Status: Thousands of vegetative plugs, as well as some young trees and shrubs, were planted in spring 2012. The drought was hard on the 2012 plantings. Over-seeding is being carried out in most areas currently under active management.*

### 2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- Develop/update volunteer program goals, policies and position descriptions.

*Status: Policies are being updated to the most recent campus standards.*

- Continue to update and improve the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website and social media site.

*Status: The Preserve Facebook page is routinely updated with new photos and material. E-newsletters and announcements are posted regularly on the Preserve website. Website revisions will continue in the next work plan.*

- Continue to 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 continue to be updated as needed (with the help of a volunteer). Permanent signs that were no longer relevant were removed. No changes were made to the existing audio trail.*

- Continue to develop on-going partnerships with organizations and community groups, including the Friends of the Preserve.

*Status: Recruitment of new and repeat student and community organizations is ongoing.*

- Continue as needed to offer volunteer training opportunities.

*Status: Volunteers receive instruction as part of task orientation and guidance at volunteer events.*

- Develop promotional items with the University Bookstore.

*Status: In progress.*

### 3) SITE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Maintain trails, parking areas, and work with campus partners for user safety and enjoyment of the Preserve. Remove hazard trees, control erosion, and install safety signs and barriers (with Grounds Department and assistance from contractors).

*Status: Installed permanent policy signage for open-closed hours, bicycle and beach use, and fishing locations. Removal of trail hazards and management of erosion is ongoing.*

- As defined in the Preserve Master Plan, install benches as donations allow.

*Status: No new benches have been added within the Preserve this year. One damaged bench was replaced at the far east end of the lakeshore path.*

- Maintain Picnic Point pit toilets (Custodial Department) and continue regular trash and refuse collection (Refuse and Recycling Department).

*Status: Ongoing services provided by FP&M.*

#### 4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Provide support for the Preserve Committee and subcommittees.

*Status: Ongoing support provided by Preserve staff.*

- Assist with capital project planning.

*Status: Ongoing support provided by Preserve staff.*

- Develop annual budgets and work plans.

*Status: Final draft will be presented to Preserve Committee in February.*

- 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. Staff changes at the UW Foundation have delayed action on this priority.*

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

*Status: No action to date.*

- Manage permits and collaborate with students and academic programs to enrich the quality of the resource and to seek grant funding for projects that contribute to the Preserve.

*Status: Student and faculty use of the Preserve is more integrated into our management, improving the student experience and our management effectiveness. A variety of classes, including library and information studies, ecology, landscape architecture, soils, and a first-year interest group (FIG) seminar, and research projects, including forest functioning and tick research (employing an E. David Cronon Fellow) used the Preserve as a laboratory.*

#### 5) CAPITAL PROJECT SUPPORT (ALPHA ORDER BY NAME, NOT PRIORITIZED)

- a. Class of 1918 Marsh trail – Continue to restore sections of the limestone screening trail that has worn away; open viewing areas, manage new sediment ponds by snow pile and refurbish benches. (continuing project)

*Status: The Grounds Department restored the trail this summer. Benches have not been refurbished to date. The term for contracted management of the vegetation around snow pile sediment was completed.*

- b. Class of 1918 Marsh Audio Trail – Develop an audio trail with interpretative signage in memory of Stanley Dodson. (new project)

*Status: A student employee and a student volunteer helped a committee of the Friends organization to prepare the narrations for audio trail recordings.*

- c. Class of 1946 Frautschi Point entry improvements - Install native landscaping at the entry to Frautschi Point in and around the parking lot (by Physical Plant). Ground layer planting to be executed by Preserve staff. (continuing project)

*Status: Physical Plant has started implementation of the project which will be completed in spring/summer 2013.*

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- d. Class of 1953 Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue regular maintenance and develop a planting plan for along the shoreline from west of Willow Creek to the Triangle Marsh. (continuing project)

*Status: Vegetation management is ongoing. Future planting plans will be integrated into the West Campus storm water and Willow Creek Woods management plans.*

- e. Class of 1955 Tent Colony Woods improvements - Continue to control invasive plants, add a diversity of native woodland plants. Install trailhead signage at Raymer's Cove entry. (continuing project)

*Status: Volunteers planted wildflowers this spring and staff watered them during the drought. Invasive plant control work continues.*

- f. 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. (continuing project)

*Status: The project design was completed and submitted to Physical Plant for hiring a contractor. The project is expected to be implemented in 2013.*

- g. Eagle Heights Apartments recycle lot design – Organize layout of containers and protect edge of lot. Control runoff so it no longer creates an erosion issue and refurbish the existing erosion area. (new project)

*Status: A plan was proposed to serve stakeholder and Preserve concerns. This has been delayed pending a more extensive planning process by Housing.*

- h. Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan - Begin development of a restoration and management plan. (continuing project)

*Status: A draft of the management plan will be submitted to the Preserve Committee in February 2013.*

- i. Heritage Oak: Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Vegetation Management Project – Implement second phase of ground layer weed control; seed cleared areas; remove selected undesirable trees; and implement a prescribed burn if conditions allow. (continuing project)

*Status: Implemented second phase of ground layer weed control; seeded cleared areas; removed selected undesirable trees. The drought retarded growth of most vegetation, and the resulting groundlayer is sparse. The site will be over-seeded and additional trees will be removed this winter.*

- j. Lake Mendota Drive Pedestrian crossing path design and implementation – Create a safe road crossing for pedestrians and address runoff from the parking lot that causes erosion on the east edge of the road. (new project)

*Status: Conceptual plans have been completed. Need to review and discuss implementation/funding with Housing.*

- k. Lakeshore Housing: Complete shoreline landscape plan from Elm Drive to Willows Beach – Plan is complete; work with Housing to implement the project. (continuing project)

*Status: Project has been installed. Watering and maintenance will continue by contractor for three years.*

- l. Lot 34 Bioswale – Review completed project and evaluate for effectiveness in meeting desired goals; develop status report on infiltration and surrounding plantings. (continuing project)

*Status: Weeds were controlled in the bioswale. Trees and shrubs planted in 2010 have been repeatedly watered during the drought. The Lot 34 bioswale was written into the 2012 Preserve burn plan as a potential burn unit.*

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- m. Picnic Point entry path improvements – Complete the limestone path improvements with planting by Preserve staff. (continuing project)

*Status: A planting of native vegetation, aimed at infiltrating standing water and supporting pollinators, was installed by Preserve staff and volunteers. The plants were regularly watered during the drought and have developed nicely. Trail conditions have improved for pedestrians and the new plantings have attracted pollinators.*

- n. Picnic Point Improvements – Complete the shoreline stabilization, soil protection, plantings, pedestrian access, and fire site gathering circle improvements at the tip of Picnic Point. Manage contract for plant replacements and care. Extend erosion control and plantings to remaining section adjacent to steps at tip. (continuing project)

*Status: The construction project is complete, except for a lake safety light to be installed at the Lot 60 boat launch in the spring of 2013. Maintenance by the contractor is to continue to the end of the 2014 growing season.*

- o. Wally Bauman Woods: Carry out the first year of control of undesirable vegetation. (new project)

*Status: Initiated control in early 2012 (winter). Ongoing.*

- p. West Campus Stormwater Project - Eagle Heights Bio-retention basins, Lot 60 stormwater pond, Triangle Marsh stormwater pond, University Bay Drive bio-retention basin - Monitor design and provide review and input into the planning & design process. (continuing project)

*Status: Construction of Phase 1 is mostly complete with the exception of some planting next spring; Phase 2 is in the permitting process.*

- q. Willow Creek Woods Savanna restoration – Develop a long term management plan for the area bounded by University Bay on the north, Willows beach on the east, Willow Creek on the west, and the effigy mounds on the south. (continuing project)

*Status: In progress.*

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