



UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve APPROVED 2018 Work Plan 6-month Status Report – September 2018

The following document provides a status update on the 2018 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Work Plan (March 1, 2018 – February 28, 2019) facilitated by our professional staff within Facilities Planning & Management. This is not an exhaustive list of accomplishments, but does provide a general understanding of the completed work in the past 6 months. The initiatives shown in the Work Plan are also not prioritized, understanding that Preserve staff will work on the initiatives throughout the year with the ultimate goal to complete as much of the work as possible based on available staff and financial resources. The Work Plan, annually reviewed by Preserve staff and approved by the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee, provides guidance on priorities and initiatives for the year ahead.

1) LAND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Monitor and control priority non-native plant species across entire Preserve (e.g., porcelain berry, Japanese hedge parsley, garlic mustard).

Status: *Garlic mustard control efforts were delayed due to late snowfall in mid-April. Preserve staff, volunteer stewards and Prairie Partners interns worked to make up for lost time and removed most populations. Preserve staff continues to work with UW Housing on the management of fig buttercup on the west side of the Eagle Heights housing community. Volunteer steward Roma Lenehan removed several populations of Japanese hedge parsley from Frautschi Point, Tent Colony Woods, and Big Woods. Porcelain berry monitoring shows continued reductions in population density, but young vines are still prevalent across much of the Preserve. No further individuals of Siberian motherwort were identified in the location discovered and removed in 2017 along the University Bay Drive swales.*

- Continue follow-up management in sites cleared of invasive brush in preceding years (i.e., resprout treatment, herbaceous weed control, and seeding native species).

Status: *Prairie Partners interns controlled buckthorn resprouts in the southwest portion of Frautschi Point and the Heritage Oak site in Bill's Woods. Plans for late summer brush mowing and follow-up herbicide application in several locations were delayed due to wet weather.*

- Establish greater diversity of native vegetation through seeding and planting in sites that have been adequately prepared.

Status: *Friends of the Preserve planting party added prairie plants to a formal garden bed at the Picnic Point entrance and pollinator nodes further east along the main Picnic Point path. Oak seedlings started from acorns and donated by Glenda Denniston were planted in Frautschi Point along the new trail segment. The Willow Creek savanna seeding site is in the establishment phase, weedy, but seedlings are sprouting of various prairie/savanna species.*

- Implement approved management plans, and begin to draft management plans for additional sections of the Preserve. Prioritize areas of the Preserve for the development of future management plans.
(see below)
- Eagle Heights Woods Implementation – Continue follow-up control of invasive woody resprouts and seedlings in the Mounds, Central, South, and West Zones. Continue vegetation monitoring in Indian Mounds, Central, South, and West Zones, and perform initial monitoring in the North Zone. Plan and implement prescribed burns. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Perform invasive brush removal in North Zone. Plan repairs for erosion on the Shady Lane path, in the SW corner of Eagle Heights Woods.

Status: A prescribed burn was conducted across Indian Mounds Zone and west slope on April 26. Vegetation surveys were conducted in North Zone in May and July. Wolfe Tree Service addressed hazard trees along the southeast trail segment and mounds trail loop. Some trails were mulched with wood chips generated in winter brush removal activities. General weed control was performed. Plans were drafted to install water bars along main north-south path (former driveway) from Shady Lane to mitigate stormwater erosion. Preserve staff are planning buckthorn resprout control across previous clearings and initial brush removal in North Zone.

- Identify priority locations to manage for oak communities. Identify tree removal priorities and phasing plan to facilitate long-term oak regeneration. Identify outlets for productive use of wood generated during tree thinning activities. Develop a communication and outreach plan to engage stakeholders.
 - Eagle Heights Woods, Frautschi Point, Bill’s Woods, and Picnic Point

Status: Mapped existing populations of natural advanced oak regeneration and planted oaks in southern Frautschi Point and the base of Picnic Point (east savanna/old field). Plans are being drafted to remove competing trees around existing oaks, and identifying additional locations to thin undesirable, early successional trees in favor of gaps for future oak regeneration.

- Establish a service agreement with UW Grounds outlining the services/locations routinely provide the Preserve, the approximate value, processes for review, and requests.

Status: Preserve staff will address this as an upcoming winter project

- Implement the third year of a four-year initiative focused on control of invasive and weedy plant species. Incorporate use of Invasive Species Management Early Detecting & Distribution Mapping System * (ISM Track/EDDMaps) data program to document invasive species management activities.

Status: Former Prairie Partners intern Emily Jorgensen was hired as an Invasive Species Specialist. She led our Badger Volunteer groups in weekly activities and performed invasive species control in focal areas (Class of 1918 marsh, Temin path, Picnic Point) and across the Preserve.

2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- Implement volunteer program goals and policies.

Status: Ongoing. See metrics below on the volunteer program.

- Engage volunteers in meaningful land stewardship activities in support of Preserve goals, and continue to expand the ongoing volunteer program.

Status: Ongoing. For the first 6 months of 2018, 370 volunteers donated 1,280 hours to the care of the Preserve. Volunteers removed invasive plants, planted native wildflowers and grasses, and chipped and brushed back

trails. For the third year in a row, we hosted a Badger Volunteer Team who worked weekly with the seasonal Invasive Species Technician. On-going volunteers monitored and reported on trail conditions, collected trash, cleaned the kiosks, maintained the entrance garden at Frautschi Point, and removed invasive plant species.

- Manage the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website and social media sites.

Status: Ongoing. Preserve staff continue to update the website as necessary and continue to utilize Facebook and Twitter to reach out to the general public. Staff also just added a Preserve Instagram account.

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

Status: Preserve staff continue to support the Lakeshore Audio Trail and Class of 1918 Marsh Audio Field Trip via cell phone service and our website. Temporary signs are regularly updated and replaced to provide current information to Preserve visitors.

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

Status: Ongoing. In the first 6 months of 2018, 37 student and community groups were engaged to care for the Preserve. A number of these groups have provided their service for multiple years including Chancellor's Scholars, Blackhawk Church, Army ROTC, UW MBAs, Masters of Public Health, Sierra Student Coalition, and Alternative Breaks. Staff continue to work with the Clean Lakes Alliance to host "Renew the Blue" volunteer days. Preserve staff also continues to work with the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve on long-standing volunteer efforts such as the spring garlic mustard pull.

Preserve staff participated in the UW-Madison 2018 Teaching and Learning Symposium and the Preserve was featured in the poster session.

Preserve staff worked with UW Arboretum staff to facilitate the development of a community of practice for land managers who work with volunteers. An initial meeting was held on August 17, 2018 with 20 participants from around the county including Dane County and City of Madison staff.

- Assist promotional activities as appropriate for development initiatives.

Status: Ongoing.

- Develop an outreach and communication plan for fiscal year 2019.

Status: Ongoing.

3) SITE INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Status: Several stretches of trails were covered with a fresh layer of wood chips generated by brush removal activities. Additional sections of trails will likely be chipped this fall. Trail corridors were pruned to maintain user access, with high-use corridors receiving the most attention.

- Maintain fire circles and stock wood racks (with assistance from UW Grounds Department).

Status: Fire circles were maintained on a daily basis Monday through Friday, and wood racks refilled as needed to meet reservation demand. UW Grounds staff services the wood racks on Wednesdays each week and Preserve staff provide additional labor as needed.

- Remove hazard trees, control erosion, and install safety signs and barriers (with assistance from UW Grounds Department and contractors).

Status: UW Grounds staff continue to provide support for hazard and downed tree removal along high-traffic paths, as well as regrading eroded portions of the Temin Lakeshore Path and main Picnic Point path as needed following heavy rain events. Hazard and downed trees on other trails have been removed by Preserve staff or contractors. Staff worked with three Shorewood Hills residents and UW Housing on removal of Preserve trees that were at a high potential of creating hazards on properties adjacent to the Preserve.

- As defined in the Preserve Master Plan, install benches as donations allow, and maintain views through selective vegetation removal.

Status: Waiting for the receipt of one gift of \$10,000 for installation of a commemorative bench in Muir Woods.

- Maintain Picnic Point pit toilets (Custodial & Plumbing Departments), continue regular trash collection (Waste and Recycling Department), and maintain hand water pump (Plumbing Department).

Status: Custodial & Recycling and Plumbing units of Physical Plant continue to provide regular services.

4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Provide support for the Preserve Committee and subcommittees.

Status: Staff provided administrative support for Preserve Committee meetings and additional meetings of the “Planning and Implementation” and “Education” subcommittees held to date in 2018. Support includes coordination of schedules and setting dates of meetings, distribution of meeting announcements and support materials, agenda and minutes preparation, maintaining the Preserve Committee webpage, and the archiving of Committee documents in the on-line Committee document library.

- Assist with capital project planning.

Status: See section “5) Capital Project Support” below.

- Develop annual budgets and work plans.

Status: The budget planning process has been initiated with development of the 6-month status report for the 2018 work plan and scheduling of the first public Stakeholder Meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 5:30 p.m. in Room 132 of the WARF building, 610 Walnut Street, Madison, WI. A call for Project proposals will be published on the Preserve website with a deadline of November 1, 2018.

- Provide development opportunities for UW Foundation fundraising, grants, and financial support to continue building the Preserve endowment and stewardship resources.

Status: The Director and Program Manager continue to work with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association to cultivate private support for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Information on making gifts to the

Preserve is available on the Preserve website. Preserve staff continue to participate in quarterly meetings of "Cross Campus Partners" hosted by the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association which bring together University programs that do not have dedicated development staff. The Stewardship Fund has received 19 donations totaling \$23,289 since March 1, 2018.

- Document internal organizational operations, processes, policies and procedures. This includes pesticide use, trail clearing protocol, fire circle maintenance and wood restocking, electronic filing protocol, etc.

Status: *A central organizational system has been developed for Preserve working documents. Digital and hard copy information is in the process of being reorganized into the new system.*

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

Status: *On-going - Strategic planning for the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve continues to be a long-term goal for the director and the Preserve professional staff. The director hopes to begin to identify funding for this initiative in the coming year and then begin the process of defining a scope and overall timeline. Following the strategic planning process, an update to the 2006 Preserve Master Plan will be initiated.*

- Manage permits and collaborate with student life and academic programs to enrich the quality of the resource.

Status: *Reviewed requests and issued 44 new permits since March 1, 2018.*

* Invasive Species Management (ISM) Track is powered by IPConnect™. Developed by a partnership between Invasive Plant Control, Inc. and the University of Georgia – Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health with support from University of Minnesota - Extension, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture and University of Wisconsin - Extension.

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

- a. Class of 1918 Marsh trail – Support the future planning for the Class of 1918 Marsh Wellness Path - connection from hospital to and around the Class of 1918 Marsh. Repair bridge surface. (continuing project)

Status: Bridge crossing near Nielsen Tennis Stadium closed until repair work can be performed. Invasive species control performed around periphery of the marsh.

- b. Class of 1953 Central Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue regular maintenance. Monitor and control purple loosestrife population identified in 2017. (continuing project)

Status: Prescribed burn planned for Lot 60 swale and thwarted by insufficient smoke dispersal conditions. General weed control performed. Monitoring continues for purple loosestrife and also added is water lettuce.

- c. Class of 1955 Tent Colony Woods improvements – Continue regular maintenance with volunteer assistance from Roma Lenehan to control weeds along the Lake Mendota Drive corridor. (continuing project)

Status: Roma's efforts have the roadside between Frautschi Point and Raymer's Cove looking beautiful.

- d. Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan – Continue follow-up control of invasive woody resprouts and seedlings in the Mounds, Central, South, and West Zones. Continue vegetation monitoring in Indian Mounds, Central, South, and West Zones, and perform initial monitoring in the East Zone. Plan and implement prescribed burns. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Perform invasive brush removal in North Zone. Plan path repair for erosion of the shady lane path, SW corner. (continuing project)

Status: Prescribed burn conducted across Indian Mounds Zone and west slope on April 26. Vegetation surveys conducted in North Zone in May and July. Wolfe Tree Service addressed hazard trees along southeast trail segment and mounds trail loop. Some trails were mulched with wood chips generated in winter brush removal activities. General weed control performed. Plans drafted to install water bars along main north-south path (former driveway) from Shady Lane to mitigate stormwater erosion. Planning buckthorn resprout control across previous clearings and initial brush removal in North Zone.

- e. Frautschi Point improvements – Continue land care improvements. Focus on southern portion of site around “2nd oak”. Plan trail from Frautschi Point parking lot to Biocore, location and materials, initiate as resources allow. (continuing project)

Status: Trail segment installed connecting Frautschi Point parking lot to water utility field edge and Biocore prairie. Buckthorn resprout control performed in southwest portion of site where new trail was installed. Volunteers have helped haul out brush piles to be chipped and removed additional swaths of buckthorn. Planning tree thinning for oak management in southern Frautschi.

- f. Friends Interns – Five *Prairie Partners* interns receive educational experiences while assisting Preserve staff with field work 1 day per week during the summer. (continuing project)

Status: Intern crew worked Thursdays May 24-August 9 supporting invasive species control, trail maintenance, and vegetation surveying.

- g. Willow Creek Woods savanna restoration – Control weed competition in newly seeded southeast project area. Continue to manage invasive species and undesirable woody regrowth across entire site. (continuing project)

Status: Staff have performed repeated mowing in southeast project area for weed control. Good Oak Ecological Services performed herbicide applications for Canada thistle across the site. Continued invasive brush removal has occurred along the east shoreline of Willow Beach with Prairie Partners interns and Badger Volunteers.

h. Preserve Kiosks

- a. Picnic Point entrance – **Status:** planted in spring 2018 by Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and Preserve Staff.
- b. All three kiosks - add interpretive panels. **Status:** design in progress

i. Picnic Point fire circle improvements sites 1, 4 & 5 – review needs and costs for improvements to these areas.

Status: Designs and cost estimates in progress.