



# UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve 2019 Work Plan - DRAFT

The following document provides an overview of proposed work in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve facilitated by Facilities Planning & Management staff. The list is not exhaustive, but does provide the general scope of proposed activities in the Preserve for fiscal year 2019 (March 1, 2019 – February 28, 2020). The initiatives are not listed in order of priority, 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 annual work plan is prepared by Preserve staff and presented to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee for discussion and approval. Major initiatives proposed during the year that are not on this list are considered in the following fiscal year deliberations for inclusion in future work plans. Projects initiated in previous years are a priority for implementation and completion.

## 1) LAND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Continue to target the use of prescribed fire across a variety of sites and seasons to achieve management objectives and promote diverse natural communities. Build volunteer corps of trained individuals to assist with burn implementation.
- Bill's Woods – Partner with UW Arboretum to secure AmeriCorps crew to complete brush removal in western section.
- Limnology garden – transplant out desirable specimens ahead of planned construction that will disturb the garden.
- Evaluate impact of 2018 high water levels on shoreline and low-lying areas in the Preserve.
- Frautschi Point – Remove aspen clone in south section adjacent to water utility facility to open space around the existing cluster of white oaks and allow further establishment of savanna vegetation.
- Second Point Woods - Remove trees along southern border of the woods that are growing out into young oaks as well as the utility path along the north side of Biocore prairie.
- Eagle Heights Garden/Lake Mendota Drive R-O-W - Manage swath of vegetation that was forestry mowed in fall 2018 through a combination of periodic mowing and herbicide application.
- Eagle Heights Woods Implementation – Continue follow-up control of invasive woody resprouts and seedlings in the Mounds, Central, South, West and North Zones. Continue vegetation monitoring in Indian Mounds, Central, South, West, and North Zones, and perform pre-management vegetation surveys in the East Zone. Plan and implement prescribed burns. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Perform invasive brush removal in East Zone. Implement storm water control project for erosion on the Shady Lane path, in the SW corner of Eagle Heights Woods.
- Monitor and control priority non-native plant species across entire Preserve (e.g., porcelain berry, Japanese hedge parsley, Canada thistle, fig buttercup, garlic mustard).

- Continue follow-up management in sites cleared of invasive brush in preceding years (i.e., resprout treatment, herbaceous weed control, and seeding native species).
- Establish greater diversity of native vegetation through seeding and planting in sites that have been adequately prepared.
- 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.
- Continue to plan management activities that promote oak regeneration. Identify tree removal priorities and phasing plan. 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
- Establish a service agreement with UW Grounds outlining the services/locations routinely provide the Preserve, the approximate value, processes for review, and requests.
- Implement the fourth 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.

## 2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- Implement volunteer program goals and policies.
- Engage volunteers in meaningful land stewardship activities in support of Preserve goals, and continue to expand the ongoing volunteer program.
- Manage the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website and social media sites.
- Continue to provide site-based and virtual information through temporary work activity signs, audio trail recordings, and the website.
- Continue to develop on-going partnerships with organizations and community groups, including the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.
- Assist promotional activities as appropriate for development initiatives.
- Continue to partner with UW Arboretum staff on developing a community of practice for land managers who work with volunteers in the Dane County region.

## 3) SITE INFRASTRUCTURE

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

- As defined in the Preserve Master Plan, install benches as donations allow, and maintain views through selective vegetation removal.
- Maintain Picnic Point pit toilets (Custodial & Plumbing Departments), continue regular trash collection (Waste and Recycling Department), and maintain hand water pump (Plumbing Department).

#### 4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Continued development of safety operational handbook, and training opportunities.

- Provide support for the Preserve Committee and subcommittees.
- Assist with capital project planning.
- Develop annual budgets and work plans.
- Provide development opportunities for UW Foundation fundraising, grants, and financial support to continue building the Preserve endowment and stewardship resources. Update the existing list of potential capital projects suitable for donor consideration.
- 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.
- Facilitate a strategic planning initiative to build on the overall vision and future of the Preserve.
- Manage permits and collaborate with student life and academic programs to enrich the quality of the resource.

\* Invasive Species Management (ISM) Track is powered by IPCCConnect™. 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 1953 Central Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue regular maintenance. Monitor and control purple loosestrife population identified in 2017. (continuing project)
- b. 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)
- c. Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan – Continue follow-up control of invasive woody resprouts and seedlings in the Mounds, Central, South, West and North Zones. Continue vegetation monitoring in Indian Mounds, Central, South, West and North Zones, and perform pre-management vegetation surveys in the East Zone. Plan and implement prescribed burns. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Perform invasive brush removal in East Zone. Implement storm water control project for erosion on the Shady Lane path, in the SW corner of Eagle Heights Woods. (continuing project)
- d. Frautschi Point improvements – Continue land care improvements, including trail maintenance, brush removal with volunteer groups to maintain lake views, and native planting with the Friends of Lakeshore Nature Preserve to improve diversity along the new trail segment connecting the parking lot toward Biocore prairie. Plan tree removals to open up space around the grove of oak trees at south end near the field edge. Plan prescribed burn units where site conditions are conducive. (continuing project)
- e. 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)
- f. 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)
- g. Picnic Point fire circle improvements sites 1, 4 & 5 – review needs and costs for improvements to these areas.
- h. Picnic Point fire circle repair at site 6 – reestablish a ring of stone around the fire pit and deter use of user made path to the east of the steps to the lower platform.
- i. Picnic Point Gate repaint and store – remove gates from site, strip paint and rust and repaint, then store on campus until funds for reinstallation is budgeted.