



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – November 22, 2019

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Thank you all for continuing to contribute to our long-range, strategic planning process and for the long-term viability for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve here on the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Your help is going to help keep this place available for the many faculty, staff and students who use the Preserve for research, teaching and outreach. I look forward to completing the Strategic Plan and then on to implementing its great recommendations. From finalizing our mission, vision and guiding principles to working on an update to our 2006 Preserve Facilities Master Plan and the creation of a communications plan to help us support and expand our brand here on the UW-Madison campus and in our community.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Atypical fall weather coupled with early winter-like conditions have been presenting challenges to completing seasonal land management activities, while reminding us what is “typical” is the need to always be flexible and adjusting to an ever-changing weather.

The colder temperatures and snow on the ground does set the mood for planning which is in full gear with completion of the Strategic Plan, and the development of the 2020 Work Plan and budget. Stakeholder comments from the two strategic plan public meetings and the October work-plan 6-month status review for stakeholders will be reviewed and taken into consideration.

During the upcoming months Preserve staff will also be engaged in the University of Wisconsin system-wide redesign of job title and compensation structures. One of the goals of the Title and Total Compensation (TTC) Project is the creation of relevant and market-informed titles to support the UW workforce into the future.

Permits issued since our last meeting:

- 2019-60 – ECOL460 – Survey of Bark-Foraging Birds
- 2019-59 – BTNY460 – Decomposition and Plant Growth

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium Replacement design continues.
- Vet Med expansion is in design. We'll be sharing those draft project designs at an upcoming Preserve Committee meeting.
- Lot 129/130 consolidation – is nearing completion with the installation of parking lot lighting.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- The degraded Muir Woods steps have been signed with alternate route options for a less steep path. A funding request for replacement has been submitted to the State.
- The Eagle Heights Gardens will be improving a terrace wall along the upper edge of the F.H. King garden space.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Eagle Heights Woods – Good Oak Ecological Services initiated second phase of invasive brush removal on the north slope on November 8 and have made significant progress to date.
- Frautschi Point – Performed herbicide application to first-year garlic mustard north of the big oak trail prior to freeze. Planning tree thinning to remove competing trees growing into canopy of white oak cohort around the “second oak” at the south end of the site. Performed buckthorn resprout control along the northern edge of the second oak project area.
- Picnic Point – The main Picnic Point path has been reopened after lake levels receded.
- Raymer’s Cove/Tent Colony Woods – Continued invasive brush resprout control work with Preserve volunteer stewards Steve Sentoff and Glenn Teschendorf.
- Big Woods – Staff and volunteers continued invasive brush removal at the east end of the Big Woods extension, between the 100s apartments and Housing storage lot. Collaborating with Housing staff to chip and haul away woody debris.
- University Bay Drive swales – removed undesirable woody species from prairie plantings.
- Fall prescribed burn season not likely given current weather pattern and already saturated ground conditions. Potential fall burn units included Willow Creek savanna, Eagle Heights Woods, and Biocore prairie.
- Seasonal staff performed daily Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Promoted Strategic Plan Public Comment Meetings—Tuesday November 12 from 7-9pm and Wednesday November 20 from 3-4:30pm
- Fall 2019 E-Newsletter

Volunteer activities:

- Ongoing recruiting and communication with potential volunteers
- Volunteer events since November 1, 2019:
 1. November 2; Drop-in (Friends of the Preserve, Pi Lambda Phi, JP Cullen, MEDLIFE, UW Tennis Club, Bx3); Frautschi Point Woods; remove woody invasive plants and chip trails; 20 volunteers
 2. November 2; Institute for Management Accountants; Muir Woods; cut buckthorn; 10
 3. November 3; Students Today Leaders Forever, Sierra Student Coalition, Finance and Investment Society; Frautschi Point Woods; remove woody invasive plants; 22 volunteers
 4. November 17; Drop-in (MEDLIFE, APO, Bx3, Theta Tau); East Savanna tree line; remove woody invasive plants;
 5. November 17; Peer Leaders for Exploring Biology and UW Student Leadership Program; East Savanna tree line; remove woody invasive plants;