

UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve 2020 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 2020 (March 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021). 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. Continue to recruit trained individuals to assist with burn implementation and expand capacity to achieve management objectives.
- Bill's Woods – Complete remaining invasive brush removal in western section, following up on prior work by AmeriCorps NCCC. Complete south slope brush/sapling removal in eastern section, plan prescribed fire and seeding to increase herbaceous diversity in this section.
- Limnology garden – transplant out desirable specimens ahead of planned construction that will disturb the garden.
- Continue to evaluate impact of high water levels on shoreline and low-lying areas in the Preserve.
- Frautschi Point – Monitor tree thinning site near Second Oak. Control herbaceous weeds and re-sprouts. Plan and implement prescribed burns across southern edge of the site.
- 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 – Continue to manage swath of vegetation that was forestry mowed in fall 2018 through a combination of periodic mowing and spot herbicide application.
- Eagle Heights Woods Implementation – Continue follow-up control of invasive woody re-sprouts and herbaceous weeds across the site. Perform post-management vegetation monitoring in Indian Mounds and Central Zones. Plan and implement prescribed burns to meet management goals. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Complete invasive brush removal in East Zone. Implement phase two of storm water control project for erosion on the Shady Lane trail segment in the SW portion 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., re-sprout treatment, herbaceous weed control, and seeding native species), such as Bill's Woods and Big Woods.
- Establish greater diversity of native vegetation through seeding and planting in sites that have been adequately prepared.
- Continue to implement approved management plans and support Preserve Facilities Master Plan update process. 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
- Complete service agreement with UW Grounds outlining the services/locations routinely provide the Preserve, the approximate value, processes for review, and requests.
- Continue to implement a management initiative focused on control of invasive and weedy plant species. Incorporate use of Invasive Species Management and Early Detection & 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 Volunteer Steward 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.
- Partner with UW Arboretum staff to develop ecological restoration focused WI Master Naturalist training program to train and recruit new volunteers.
- Review volunteer program and outreach activities to support strategic planning efforts.

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. Complete a fundraising and fund development plan in conjunction with the WFAA.
- In support of the Strategic Plan Priorities, continue process improvement initiatives with documentation of internal organizational operations, processes, procedures, and policies. This includes operational, program and land management functions.
- Identify and secure funding to initiate Facilities Master Plan update process.
- 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 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. Bench – Back country (rustic) bench to be constructed in vicinity of the old Bathhouse.
- b. Class of 1953 Central Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue regular maintenance. Monitor and control purple loosestrife population identified in 2017. (continuing project)
- 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)
- d. Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan – Continue follow-up control of invasive woody resprouts and herbaceous weeds across the site. Perform post-management vegetation monitoring in the Indian Mounds and Central Zones. Plan and implement prescribed burns to meet management goals. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Complete invasive brush removal in East Zone. Implement phase two of storm water control project for erosion on the Shady Lane trail segment, in the SW portion of Eagle Heights Woods. (continuing project)
- e. Facilities Master Plan Update – Initiate master plan update process in 2020.
- f. 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 increase herbaceous diversity in the tree thinning project area. . Assess tree thinning project areas around Second Oak. Control woody re-sprouts and herbaceous weeds.. Plan and implement prescribed burns along southern edge bordering old field and Biocore prairie. (continuing project)
- g. 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)
- h. Willow Creek Woods savanna restoration –Implement prescribed burn. Continue to manage invasive species and undesirable woody regrowth across entire site. (continuing project)
- i. Picnic Point fire circle improvements sites 1 – Review needs and costs for improvements to these areas.
- j. 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.
- k. 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.