



University of Wisconsin-Madison DRAFT
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – November 6, 2020

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Thank you all again for your service to the university and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve as we all continue to weather the pandemic storm and its many challenges. The university has actually bounced back nicely after a two-week increase in our positive cases on campus while Dane Co. and the State of Wisconsin continue to lead the nation (and the world, at times) in positive COVID tests. It's a scary world out there right now and Preserve staff continue to remain positive and out on the land to assure the safety of our many users.

As you have probably seen, on-going funding will remain a significant concern for the operations of the Preserve. We believe we can get through the first round of financial reductions without too many issues, but further significant cuts are looming and we'll need to adjust our budget in the months ahead if directed to do so by the university leadership. That makes private support and philanthropy even that more important for us to continue to manage these 300 acres to support the university's mission of teaching, research and outreach. Thanks to all who may have participated in the WFAA "Fill the Hill" event. Every little bit helps. We'll be sharing our initial budget and work plan in December and will likely know more by then what our future holds for any budget reductions for the coming year. Until then, stay safe and enjoy the beautiful fall weather.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting on September 25, 2020:

- 2020-23 – Song Repertoires of Northern Cardinals- Sylvia Halkin, Visiting Professor- Central Connecticut State University
- 2020-24 – Undergraduate Project CALS (S. Gentry) - Peyton-Mushrooms of Madison project
- 2020-25 – BOT 460-Ni-Transpiration Rates of Select Trees
- 2020-26 – BOT/FEW 402-Hotchkiss-Dendrology Class
- 2020-27 – BOT 460-Eberle-Tolerance of Vegetation to Trampling

Thanks to all who supported the "Fill the Hill" event. We received 29 gifts totaling \$1,870. Numerous gifts were from first time donors! Unfortunately, as with all natural areas, the Preserve is subject to vandalism and graffiti. Our staff continuously looks for things that look amiss and we appreciate our volunteers who serve as additional sets of eyes out in the field, walking our trails to report unsafe conditions and vandalism. Our thanks to the UWPD who respond to situations requiring their attention and also to the Physical Plant staff for removing graffiti and picking up abandoned mattress/tarps and other unwanted items left in the Preserve. It is great being part of a larger cooperative team that helps manage and care for this incredible resource on campus.

Staff have begun working on the 2021 work plan and budget which will be shared in draft form at the December meeting.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium Replacement Project design process is nearly complete. The site clearing and building removal have begun. New building construction is expected to begin in February 2021. To facilitate Rec/Well's on-going operations, this project has constructed a temporary shed (40'x 70') at the existing bounding wall north of the Class of 1918 Marsh. This temporary building will be removed when the Gym/Nat building is completed in Fall 2022 or early 2023.
- The Vet Med renovation and expansion project design process is also nearly complete and will start construction likely in May 2021.
- A Landscape Master Plan process for the Willow Creek area has begun. The creek and both sides will be studied for crossings, use and revegetation along with potential redevelopment in the adjoining areas west of the creek, namely around the Grounds facility area and around the Biotron. This planning is being coordinated with the work already designed and underway at both the new Gym/Nat facility and the new Vet Med facility.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Nothing currently active.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Staff training for brush control/removal within Cogen swales and Willow Creek including equipment training;
- Review of UW-Madison Rx Fire Policy with Mike Hansen (UW Arb) and sharing of draft policy with Upham Woods staff;
- Participation with the WI Prescribed Fire Council standards committee.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Promoted the "Fill the Hill" WFAA fundraising event via email (Friends members and Preserve contacts), website, social media, kiosks, FP&M newsletter
- Strategic Plan press release to University Communications
- Working on Preserve Fall Newsletter

Volunteer activities:

- Volunteer Stewards continue to work in the Preserve under remote supervision
 - 4 volunteers removing invasive plants (Frautschi Point resprouts)
 - 3 volunteers monitoring trails