

UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve 2021 Work Plan – Approved

Green text-revised item

Blue text-new item

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 the period of January 1, 2021 – December 31, 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 use prescribed fire across a variety of sites and seasons to achieve management objectives and promote diverse natural communities. Continue to recruit individuals with wildland fire training to expand prescribed fire capacity to achieve management objectives.
- Bill's Woods – Complete remaining invasive brush removal in western section, following up on prior work by AmeriCorps NCCC.
- Limnology garden – (Pending additional development) - Replant the native planting bed following disturbance from construction in 2020.
- Frautschi Point – Monitor the Second Oak project site and areas cleared of invasive brush in recent years. Control herbaceous weeds and re-sprouts. Plan and implement prescribed burns across southern portion of the site. Assess potential need for additional tree thinning in the Second Oak project site to achieve oak savanna community objectives.
- Second Point Woods – In pursuit of the “Savanna Transition Zone” identified in the 2006 Master Plan, remove undesirable trees along southern border of the woods that are growing into oaks, as well as the utility path along the north side of Biocore prairie.
- Biocore Prairie – Continue to support management of the prairie restoration through prescribed burn planning and implementation, assistance with invasive species control, seed collection, and routine mowing of surrounding paths and gathering spaces.
- Eagle Heights Woods Implementation – Continue control of invasive woody re-sprouts and herbaceous weeds across the site. Perform post-management vegetation surveys in the Central Zone. Plan and implement prescribed burns to meet management goals. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Consider and plan future management needs to inform the Master Plan process. Implement phase two of storm water control project for erosion on the Shady Lane trail segment in the SW portion of Eagle Heights Woods.

- Lot 130 – Monitor condition of new plantings in former Lot 129 site and bioswale in center of Lot 130, and communicate management needs to contractor.
- Monitor and control priority non-native plant species across the Preserve (e.g., porcelain berry, Japanese hedge parsley, Canada thistle, fig buttercup, garlic mustard, buckthorn).
- Continue follow-up management in sites cleared of invasive brush in preceding years (i.e., re-sprout control, herbaceous weed control, and sowing native seed).
- 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.

2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- Implement volunteer program goals and policies.
- Engage volunteers in meaningful land stewardship activities in support of Preserve goals.
- 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.
- Partner with UW Arboretum staff to develop ecological restoration focused WI Master Naturalist training program to train and recruit new volunteers (rescheduled to 2021)
- Analyze volunteer program to support strategic planning efforts.
- Develop and implement a communications plan.

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).
- Analyze visitor use data generated through the visitor counter.
- Picnic Point Gate repaint and reinstall –Remove gates from site, strip paint and rust and repaint, reinstall on separate posts from the stone pillars. A mechanical opener may be added to the gate with other funds, when available.

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.
- Master Plan Update – Project to begin in January 2021 and tentatively be complete by March 2022. Project to include hiring a consultant team to inventory and analyze the existing conditions, discuss what healthy ecosystems can look like at the Preserve, make recommendations for improvements and help set criteria for prioritizing the recommendations. At each step along the way a public input/review session will be included. The Preserve Committee will also be fully involved in the process.
- 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.
- In support of the Strategic Plan priorities, identify partner organizations and establish a framework and implementation plan for engaging partners in work supporting the Preserve mission.
- CALS, FH King, GreenHouse Learning Community, Eagle Heights Community Garden – Continue to support management of agricultural units, ensure adherence to land use policies amid organizational turnover, and coordination among stakeholders through participation in the Garden Oversight Committee and routine maintenance of garden boundaries.

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

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 control of invasive woody re-sprouts and herbaceous weeds across the site. Perform post-management vegetation surveys in the Central Zone. Plan and implement prescribed burns to meet management goals. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Consider and plan future management needs to inform the Master Plan process. 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)
- d. Frautschi Point improvements – Monitor the Second Oak project site and areas cleared of invasive brush in recent years. Control herbaceous weeds and re-sprouts. Plan and implement prescribed burns to meet management goals. Assess potential need for additional tree thinning in the Second Oak project site to achieve oak savanna community objectives.
- e. Friends sponsorship of Prairie Partners intern crew – 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 – Implement prescribed burn. Continue to manage invasive species and undesirable woody regrowth across entire site. (continuing project)
- g. Picnic Point fire circle improvements sites 1 – Review needs and costs for improvements to these areas.
- h. Picnic Point Gate repaint and store – Remove gates from site, strip paint and rust and repaint, reinstall on separate posts from the stone pillars. A mechanical opener may be added to the gate with other funds, when available.
- i. Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan Update – Project to begin in January 2021 and tentatively be complete by March 2022. Project to include hiring a consultant team to inventory and analyze the existing conditions, discuss what healthy ecosystems can look like at the Preserve, make recommendations for improvements and help set criteria for prioritizing the recommendations. At each step along the way a public input/review session will be included. The Preserve Committee will also be fully involved in the process.