



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – November 12, 2021

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

With fall weather well upon us, and lingering about a month behind, it's a welcome site to the seasons again marching on through the ever-present pandemic. We too in the Preserve march on providing a safe and resilient outdoor landscape for teaching, research and outreach. We appreciate the Preserve Committee's commitment of time and resources, assisting in our on-going update of the 2006 Preserve Master Plan and helping guide the thoughtful consideration of the management of these precious 300 acres at UW-Madison. We've requested additional funding to assist with the management of the Emerald Ash Borer in the Preserve and I am requesting an additional 100%-time FTE to assist in our field management program as a Horticulture/Forestry Specialist is added to our small but hardworking staff. I'm hoping that this new position will be funded in FY23 as we continue to plan and budget for the future. Thanks again for all you do to support the Preserve.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting on October 8, 2021:

- 2021-54 – Fishing event-DNR & UW Fishing club/team
- 2021-53 – WI Master Naturalist Program
- 2021-52 – Plants in the Design – LA 375
- 2021-51 – Soil pH study – BTNY 460
- 2021-50 - Wildlife Diets – BTNY 460
- 2021-49 – Plant Diversity – BTNY 460
- 2021-48 – Wildlife Diets – ECOL 460
- 2021-47 – Wildlife Diets – ZOO 460
- 2021-46 – Grass Observation – AGRY 370
- 2021-45 – Oak Distributions – BTNY 455
- 2021-44 – Wildlife Observations – BTNY 460
- 2021-43 – Wildlife Observations – ECOL 360
- 2021-42 – Oak & surrounding vegetation – BTNY 460
- 2021-41 – Filming -Zarzycki student
- 2021- 40 – Bark thickness - McCulloh
- 2021-39 – Forestry Outreach ECOL390

A supplemental funding request has been submitted to FP&M leadership for an additional \$150,000, over three years, to assist in mitigation of declining/dying ash trees due to the on-going damage of the Emerald Ash Borer in the Preserve. In most cases, UW Grounds can address hazardous trees which Preserve staff have identify to be removed or “totemed” to reduce risk. In a few cases, Grounds is unable to address the situation and a contractor is hired. These funds would be available to pay for contractor services, avoiding the use of gift funds.

A total of 41 donations were received during the 2021 “Fill the Hill” fundraising event, **providing \$ 5,180** for the Preserve. Of the total donations, 23 were from first time donors to the Preserve. Thanks to Bryn Scriver for developing and managing our outreach to Preserve stakeholders and our on-line presence for this event.

Native Nations – A UW Working Group has formed an Indigenous Placemaking Subcommittee which I have been invited to serve on, along with eleven other UW representatives. The Indigenous Placemaking subcommittee will be a part of a

university-wide effort that will help determine the vision and strategy of Indigenous placemaking on Ho-Chunk lands now occupied by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The subcommittee will identify placemaking opportunities, define proposed projects, and help articulate the rationale for implementation.

- Visitor Counter at Picnic Point path (one location) – January 1, 2021 thru October 31, 2021 (minus 2.5 weeks in July due to ant related equipment malfunction) = **132,988+**

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium project is now well under construction with structural steel being raised and a topping off ceremony in the near future. You can really see how large this building will be now and the visual impact on the campus landscape.
A sculpture will be included northwest of the building celebrating the 12 Clans of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Native nations representatives, including a Ho-Chunk artist, have been involved in this initiative.
- The Vet Med Addition construction also continues with the footings and foundations being poured and the building coming up out of the ground.
- The Temporary Linden Drive Bridge has been installed – a facilitating project for the Vet Med project that allows Vet Med clients access to the large and small animal hospital via Linden Drive, detoured due to the construction traffic and laydown space next to Willow Creek on Easterday Drive.
- The Willow Creek Area Master Plan presented last month is intended to be completed by the end of the 2021 calendar year.
- A feasibility study for creating a bridge across the lake side (north) of the Limnology Building is nearly complete. This project would accommodate bikes and pedestrians in a safer manner than the existing path south of the building and into the parking lot which has lots of blind corners and bicycle/pedestrian/vehicular conflicts as bikes move through the congested parking lot.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Garden Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is working on a long-term plan for the garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and budgeting for improvements.
- SmithGroup is the landscape architectural consultant firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. J Blue will be at the meeting to share his team's observations to this point and collect committee input on their site analysis and the process moving forward. We'll also discuss goals and guiding principles for the master plan process.
- The gate project at the entrance to Picnic Point project began in September and should be complete by end of December 2021.
- A new memorial bench has been installed at Frautschi Point.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Preserve staff finished porcelain berry monitoring/control work for the season.
- Preserve staff completed control work for woody species in prairie plantings along University Bay Dr swales.
- Preserve staff performed routine maintenance around memorial bench sites.
- Preserve staff mowed the perimeter and gathering spaces around Biocore prairie and the kiln.
- Seed collection is winding down for the season. Varying quantities of ~50 species have been collected to sow across newly cleared and ongoing project areas. A seed order will be compiled to fill seed mix needs moving forward for sowing over winter and into the early spring months.
- Contract crew from Good Oak Ecological Services performed weed control in Lot 129/130 planting areas.

- Grounds Dept. arborist crew completed hazard ash tree removal along Picnic Point beach trail.
- Contract crew from RES (Resource Environmental Services, LLC, formerly AES, Applied Ecological Services) performed foliar treatments to buckthorn resprouts in areas brush mowed/cut late summer and early fall in portions of Picnic Point and Frautschi Point.
- We continue planning and watching for autumn prescribed burn opportunities.
- Preserve and Grounds Dept staff removed downed trees from trails. Preserve staff performed routine monitoring and site maintenance to mitigate misuse by and hazards to visitors

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Participated in Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association 2021 “*Fill the Hill*” fundraising event <https://uwflamingos.com/pages/home-2185>, 5pm Oct. 28th and end at 6pm Oct. 29. See results above.
- Reviewed and helped advertise Friends sponsored walks for the Wisconsin Science Fest October 23-24
- Lakeshore Nature Preserve and the UW Arboretum staff co-hosted a Wisconsin Master Naturalist Ecological Restoration course on Oct 1-3 and Oct. 22-24. They also had a very successful field day in the Preserve on Oct 23rd. Lead staff included:
 - Anne Pearce, WI First Detector Network, invasive plant walk
 - Bryn Scriver, seed collecting and buckthorn removal activities
 - Adam Gundlach, Prescribed fire demo and Eagle Heights Woods woodland restoration tour
 - Amy Rosebrough, Asst. State Archeologist, Native American and mounds history

Volunteer activities:

- October 9, 2021 9am-Noon, Frautschi Point field edge, Drop-in volunteer work party
 - 15 volunteers; cut woody invasive brush and collect native seed
- October 10, 2021, Group volunteer event CANCELED due to rain/thunderstorm
- October 12, 2021 2:30-5pm, Biocore Prairie and Picnic Point, LA 363: “EARTH PARTNERSHIP: RESTORATION EDUCATION FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE” class
 - 46 students and 3 teaching staff collected native grass seed in Biocore Prairie and cut woody invasive brush south of the Picnic Point mounds group
- October 15, 9am-Noon, Willow Creek Woods lakeshore edge, Actuarial Club
 - 24 volunteers; cut buckthorn
- October 17, 2021 9am-Noon, Picnic Point, Drop-in volunteer work party
 - 25 volunteers; cut buckthorn
- October 17, 2021 1-3pm, Picnic Point, Students Today Leaders Forever
 - 11 volunteers; cut buckthorn