



Lakeshore Nature Preserve
FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**UW-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve
FY2023 Work Plan – Approved
3-month status -September 2022**

The following document provides a first 3-month status update on the 2023 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Work Plan (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) facilitated by our professional staff within Facilities Planning & Management. This is not an exhaustive list of accomplishments but does provide a general understanding of the completed work in the past 3 months. The initiatives shown in the Work Plan are also not prioritized, understanding that Preserve staff will work on the initiatives throughout the year with the goal to complete as much of the work as possible based on available staff and financial resources. The Work Plan, annually reviewed by Preserve staff and approved by the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee, provides guidance on priorities and initiatives for the year ahead.

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.
 - Participated in planning meeting for LA581 – Prescribed Fire: Ecology and Implementation. Performed monitoring walks in prior year’s burn units. Provided Rx fire planning and implementation demo for the Preserve’s Natural Areas Assistants and Prairie Partners intern crew. Met with F&WE faculty member to discuss use of the Preserve for a disturbance ecology lab in planning, with fire being one of the focal disturbance mechanisms. Began planning for autumn ’22 burn season. Responded to student Rx burn volunteer inquiries.
- Limnology garden – (Pending additional development) - Perform routine maintenance of native planting bed following install in 2021. Consider adding plugs or seeds if some original plants not successful.
 - The garden has been weeded and watered.
- Frautschi Point – Monitor the Second Oak project site, control herbaceous weeds and undesirable woody re-sprouts and assess additional tree thinning needs to achieve oak savanna community objectives.
 - Preserve volunteers, staff and the Prairie Partners intern crew worked to control undesirable woody regrowth across the project area. Natural tree mortality has further opened the canopy since the initial tree removals, most notably the significant loss of ash trees. With more light and new plants establishing from seed each year, the area is blooming and buzzing with activity throughout the growing season. Continued fire management, invasive species control and supplemental seeding will continue to encourage a robust savanna/open woodland community.
- 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.
 - No action to date. Planning additional thinning along field edge for winter 2022-23.
- 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.

- The Prairie Partners intern crew spent a day working on invasive species control and learning about prairie ecology and management.
- Eagle Heights Woods Implementation – Continue control of invasive woody re-sprouts, especially on the north slope, and herbaceous weeds across the site. Perform post-management vegetation surveys in the South Zone. Plan and implement prescribed burns to meet management goals. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Consider and plan management treatments that promote oak regeneration. Implement phase two of storm water control project for erosion on the Shady Lane trail segment in the SW portion of Eagle Heights Woods.
 - Conducted summer vegetation survey in South Zone with Prairie Partners intern crew and Preserve Natural Areas Assistants. Conducted site monitoring walks of recent burn units (mounds loop, central). Coordinated contractor crew brush resprout control work across the north slope. Assessed SE corner of site for potential future tree thinning opportunities to encourage oak regeneration.
- 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.
 - Completed final growing season under contractor management of plantings. Preserve staff worked to control invasive species establishing and spreading in “no-mow” lawn surrounding Lot 130.
- Class of 1953 Central Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue regular maintenance. Monitor and control purple loosestrife population identified in 2017. Remove invasive brush from shoreline to maintain filtered views of the lake and support native plant community.
 - Preserve Natural Areas Assistants completing monitoring for purple loosestrife along shoreline either side of Willow Creek.
- 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.
 - Completed installation of new memorial bench site east of Raymer’s Cove. Removed downed storm-damaged trees from trail and worked with arborist contractor to fell additional hazard ash trees.
- Willow Creek Woods savanna restoration – Implement prescribed burn. Continue to manage invasive species and undesirable woody regrowth across entire site. Monitor impacts of UW Natatorium construction on site integrity.
 - Worked with Preserve Natural Areas Assistants and the Prairie Partners intern crew to control invasive species and encourage establishment of a diverse savanna plant community. Conducted monitoring walk to assess conditions following the ’21 Rx burn. Repeatedly collected trash blown in from the UW Nat construction and Dejepe Hall dumpsters. Collected seed.
- 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).
 - Ongoing. Worked with contractor crews to address a variety of targets. Completed porcelain berry monitoring across a large portion of the Preserve with Preserve Natural Areas Assistants and the Prairie Partners intern crew.
- 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).
 - Performed cutting/mowing of young brush resprouts in multiple locations to prep for late-season foliar treatment of new growth in October. Planning winter ’22-23 seed sowing needs for areas recently cleared of brush.
- Establish greater diversity of native vegetation through seeding and planting in sites that have been adequately prepared.
 - Planning winter ’22-23 seed sowing needs, seed collection targets, and seed order needs.
- Continue to implement approved management plans and support Preserve Facilities Master Plan implementation. Prioritize areas of the Preserve for the development of future management plans.
 - Master Plan Update nearing completion.
- 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
 - Priority management units will be identified, and implementation plans drafted following completion of the Preserve Master Plan update.

- Complete service agreement with UW Grounds outlining the services/locations routinely provide the Preserve, the approximate value, processes for review, and requests.
 - Process on hold during transition period.

2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- Implement volunteer program goals and policies.
 - Reviewed and updated Volunteer Handbook and Field Trip Leader/ Educational Event Host Guidelines
- Engage volunteers in meaningful land stewardship activities in support of Preserve goals.
 - On-going. From July 1 to September 30, we engaged 167 volunteers (including 12 UW and community groups) in the care and ecological restoration of the Preserve. Volunteers contributed 403 hours while removing invasive plants and collecting native seeds. During the academic year we focus our engagement on UW students/groups, and during the summer months we welcome more non-UW groups to volunteer activities. For the first 3 months of FY 2023, 61% of volunteers were UW students. Three Volunteer Stewards continue to care for the Preserve (invasive plant removal, educational programming, trash pick-up/trail monitoring, planting/seeding,).
- Manage the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website and social media sites.
 - Ongoing. Staff utilizes the Preserve website and social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to share news, updates, and images.
- Continue to provide site-based and virtual information through temporary work activity signs, audio trail recordings, newsletter, and website.
 - Ongoing. Staff added “unauthorized possession of alcohol prohibited” signs to fire circles to help UWPD enforcement; utilized temporary signage to communicate land management and restoration activities on Picnic Point; and continues to support the Audio Trail and Class of 1918 Marsh Audio Field Trip.
- Continue to develop on-going partnerships with organizations and community groups, including the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.
 - During the summer focused on engaging community and corporate members. Partnered with the Morgridge Center for Public Service by hosting students for a tour and volunteer activity for 2022 Welcome Week. Resumed partnership with the Clean Lakes Alliance to engage and educate volunteers about ecological restoration and benefits to our lakes. Once again worked with Master of Public Health and Master of Business Administration programs to introduce to and engage students in the Preserve. Helped to advertise and promote Friends of the Preserve field trips.
- Assist promotional activities as appropriate for development initiatives.
 - Preparing for Fill the Hill fundraising event –5pm Oct 20 to 5pm Oct 21(uwflamingos.com).
- Analyze volunteer program to support strategic planning efforts.
 - Ongoing.
- Implement the communications plan.
 - Ongoing. Working with FP&M Communication staff to implement.

3) SITE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Maintain trails, parking areas, and work with campus partners for user safety and enjoyment of the Preserve.
 - Nearly 12 miles of trails maintained. UW Grounds surfacing team has made numerous repairs on limestone paths.

- Maintain fire circles and stock wood racks.
 - Fire circles opened in March after being closed for nearly 2 years due to the pandemic. UW Event Services manages the reservation process and UW Grounds provides firewood with wood racks stocked by Preserve staff.
- Remove hazard trees, control erosion, and install safety signs and barriers (with assistance from UW Grounds Department and contractors).
 - Hazardous and downed trees have been removed from trails through a combined effort of Preserve staff and the UW Grounds Department crew. One storm in mid-June resulted in nearly 30 downed trees along trails which required removal. The Preserve experienced its first “forest fire” when a large cottonwood along the Picnic Point beach trail was struck by lightning and caught fire. Madison Fire Department responded with their lake assault boat and put the smoldering fire out. UW Grounds staff has also repaired erosion on the main limestone paths.
- Monitor, map and conduct response to an increasing number of declining/dying ash trees resulting from emerald ash borer.
 - Monitoring of hazard trees continues to be conducted by both Preserve and UW Grounds staff. Emerald ash borer infestation has resulted in an increasing number of declining and dead ash trees and increased hazard trees requiring mitigation. \$50,000 of additional financial support from the University is provided annually to address increasing tree removal.
- As defined in the Preserve Master Plan, install benches as donations allow, and maintain views through selective vegetation removal.
 - A new bench was installed in Tent Colony Woods in memory of UW scientist, teacher and mentor, Heidi Dvinge. All identified bench sites have been filled. More bench site will be identified in the upcoming master plan.
- Maintain Picnic Point pit toilets (Custodial & Plumbing Departments), continue regular trash collection (Waste and Recycling Department).
 - Custodial & Plumbing Departments continue to maintain the Preserve pit toilets. Waste and Recycling Department continues regular trash collection. The historic drinking fountain/water hand pump has been out of service since the summer of 2019. The Preserve is evaluating the ability repair/replace the pump and to maintain service.
- Analyze visitor use data generated through the visitor counter and share with UWPD.
 - Working in partnership with UW Transportation, a mobile pedestrian trail data counter installed along the path to the tip of Picnic Point is gathering information on Preserve visits at this one point. **An estimated 138,831 (one way) passes were recorded from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.**

4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Recruit FTE Horticulture/Forestry Specialist in addition to providing orientation and supervision.
 - Position has been approved but not funded.
- Recruit seasonal and student interns in addition to providing orientation and supervision.
 - After a hiring hiatus due to the pandemic, four student Natural Areas Assistants were hired as E. David Cronon Stewardship Fellows and funded through an endowed fund generously created by the Kelly Foundation and additional gift funds.
- Continued development of safety operational handbook, and training opportunities.
 - Ongoing effort.

- Provide support for the Preserve Committee and subcommittees.
 - Staff provided administrative support for Preserve Committee meetings and additional meetings of the “Planning and Implementation” and “Education” subcommittees held to date. Support includes coordination of schedules and setting dates of meetings, distribution of meeting announcements and support materials, agenda, and minutes preparation, maintaining the Preserve Committee webpage, and the archiving of Committee documents in the on-line Committee document library. Staff has assisted with the recruitment of three new members to the committee.
- Assist with capital project planning.
 - See section 5 Capital Project Support below.
- Develop annual budgets and work plans.
 - The budget planning process has been initiated with development of the 3-month status report for the 2022 work plan. A call for project proposals has been published on the Preserve website with a deadline of November 1, 2022. Our budget year has changed to July 1 to June 30 to coincide with UW-Madison budget year. A stakeholder meeting will be held in January 2023 to review the upcoming work plan.
- Master Plan Update – Begin implementation of priorities outlined in updated 2022 Preserve Master Plan.
 - Master Plan is scheduled to be completed in December 2022.
- 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.
 - The Assistant Director continues to work with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association to cultivate private support for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Information on making gifts to the Preserve is available on the Preserve website. Preserve staff continue to participate in meetings hosted by the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) which bring together University programs to discuss current best management practices in fund development. The Preserve will be participating in the annual “Fill the Hill” virtual giving event sponsored by WFAA.
 - The Stewardship Fund has received 8 donations totaling \$12,683.05 since July 1, 2022.
- 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.
 - Ongoing effort.
- 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.
 - Outreach to numerous partners have occurred in support of the master plan and outreach center processes.
- 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 including participation in the Garden Oversight Committee.
 - Supporting agroecology and FHKing students groups through reorganization including site composting program. Rhonda James leading community gardens through a review and planning process.
- Manage permits and collaborate with student life and academic programs to enrich the quality of the resource.
 - Education/research permits continue to be awarded. Nineteen permits have been awarded since July 1, 2022. Additional review and processes are being developed to ensure protection of archeologically sensitive areas.

- Continue work with Native Nations Working Group on campus to expand support for and recognizing this is the ancestral home of the Ho-Chunk Nation.
 - Staff participates on the Native Nations Placemaking Committee. Special consideration has been made to engage UW-Madison Native Nations students/staff in the master plan process and outreach center planning process.

5) CAPITAL PROJECT SUPPORT (NOT PRIORITIZED)

- a. 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)
 - Successfully completed.
- b. Picnic Point fire circle improvements– Review needs and costs for improvements to these areas.
 - Review of these sites will be documented by the end of January 2023.
- c. Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan Update – Begin implementation of priorities outlined in updated 2022 Preserve Master Plan.
 - To date, the master plan process has included core value and principles direction, site inventory and analysis, public and professional input on draft recommendations. We are currently preparing for a third public information meeting where the recommendations will be presented on November 17, 2022.
- d. Prepare a new bench standard compatible with the Preserve setting. The recycled materials for existing bench styles are used up.
 - Staff has had a preliminary discussion on this topic.
- e. Design and install three information panels on the existing kiosks.
 - This task has not been started.
- f. Complete install of refurbished Picnic Point gates. Consider potential for electronic controls and operator.
 - This project is complete. No automatic controller was included.
- g. Begin advance planning for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Outreach Center and develop a funding plan to move the project forward.
 - This project has started, the consultant team has been on site to tour the Preserve and evaluate the potential site locations, met with key stakeholders and are preparing for the first public information meeting. November 1, 2022.