

Lakeshore Nature Preserve
Stakeholder Meeting #1 Notes
Tuesday October 1, 2019
Room 132 WARF, 5:00-6:30pm

Present: Gary Brown, Ann Burgess, Adam Gundlach, Jeff Kirchman (UWPD), Gisela Kutzbach (Friends), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Tucker Sanborn, Marcia Schmidt (Friends), Jeff Schneider, Bryn Scriver, Steve Sentoff (Friends), Laura Wyatt

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Planning and Budget timeline:
 - a. This is the first of two public stakeholders meetings that will inform the development of the FY20 Preserve staff work plan as well as the operating and capital budgets for the coming year.
 - b. The draft budget and work plan will be presented to the public at the 2nd stakeholder meeting to be held January 28, 2020 at 5pm in Room 132 WARF. It will also be presented to the Preserve Committee at their December 12, 2019 meeting and then be voted on at their February 2020 meeting.
3. 2019 Work Plan 6-month Status Report

Preserve staff reviewed highlights of their work over the past 6 months in fulfilling the FY19 Work Plan. Those highlights include:

- Bill's Woods – Partner with UW Arboretum to secure AmeriCorps crew to complete brush removal in western section.
Status: *Worked with AmeriCorps NCCC crew to clear more than one acre of dense buckthorn in the western unit of Bill's Woods.*
- Evaluate impact of 2018 high water levels on shoreline and low-lying areas in the Preserve.
Status: *Limnology Dept. staff hosted Preserve/CPLA staff and Professor emeritus, David Mickelson on the Limnos 2 to assess/review shoreline erosion from the water. We have established a record of observed conditions, including photos, of the existing conditions of the shoreline for future comparisons. A section of near-shoreline trail in Caretaker's Woods was rerouted after collapsing in April, and the hazardous shoreline section was roped off. UW Grounds Dept. installed a small boardwalk over an eroded section of trail at the outlet of the Frautschi/Second Point gully.*
- Eagle Heights Woods Implementation – Continue follow-up control of invasive woody resprouts and seedlings in the Mounds, Central, South, West and North Zones. Continue vegetation monitoring in Indian Mounds, Central, South, West, and North Zones, and perform pre-management vegetation surveys in the East Zone. Plan and implement prescribed burns. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Perform invasive brush removal in East Zone. Implement storm water control project for erosion on the Shady Lane path, in the SW corner of Eagle Heights Woods.
Status: *Spring and summer vegetation surveys have been completed in the East Zone with the final area to be surveyed prior to invasive brush removal. Worked with AmeriCorps NCCC crew to*

install a series of 3 water bars, as the first phase of storm water mitigation efforts on the Shady Lane trail segment. Good Oak Ecological Services will perform resprout control across the ~2-acre section of the north slope cleared of brush last winter. Planning fall prescribed burns of the cleared section of the north slope, Indian mounds loop, and west slope cleared in winter 2017-'18.

- Continue to develop on-going partnerships with organizations and community groups, including the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

***Status:** Ongoing. In the first 6 months of 2018, 27 student and community groups were engaged to care for the Preserve. A number of these groups have provided their service for multiple years including Chancellor's Scholars, Blackhawk Church, UW MBAs, Masters of Public Health, Sierra Student Coalition, and Medlife. Staff continue to work with the Clean Lakes Alliance to host "Renew the Blue" volunteer days. Preserve staff also continues to work with the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve on long-standing volunteer efforts such as the spring garlic mustard pull.*

- Provide development opportunities for UW Foundation fundraising, grants, and financial support to continue building the Preserve endowment and stewardship resources. Update the existing list of potential capital projects suitable for donor consideration.

***Status:** The Director and Program Manager continue 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 quarterly meetings of "Cross Campus Partners" hosted by the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association which bring together University programs that do not have dedicated development staff. The Stewardship Fund has received 18 donations totaling \$133,201.43 (\$125,000-designated) since March 1, 2019. The Endowment Fund has received 4 donations totaling \$10,125 since March 1, 2019.*

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

***Status:** Reviewed requests and issued **42** new permits since March 1, 2019.*

- ***Frautschi Point entrance sign** will be installed in early October. This replaces the old sign that is deteriorated. The text from the old sign will be added to the kiosk.*
- ***Signs near the Muir Woods** steps have been installed directing visitors to an alternate, less steep, route through Muir Woods that does not involve the steep and uneven path where the steps have deteriorated.*
- ***Lot 130 Parking Lot** is nearly complete – September 2019. Crosswalk and pedestrian crossing lights, parking lot lights will be added soon. Conversion of Lot 129 back to natural area will begin as weather permits this fall.*

Comments and questions:

Sentoff asked if there were more downed trees than usual in the Preserve. Wyatt said there are numerous of trees with compromised root systems. Increased rains, erosion are contributing to unstable soils. High winds are also increasing risk.

Lenehan asked if there was a way to cut down on trash that is blowing into Tent Colony Woods and Big Woods from Eagle Heights Apartments. Brown said this is a perennial problem. Staff has had conversations with Waste and Recycling to discuss in past. Kirchman offered to look into this issue since he is the Preserve UWPD liaison plus he was just appointed as the interim Community Officer at Eagle Heights Apartments.

Kutzbach stated the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve sent a letter to Gary Brown regarding the Grounds storage area in the Preserve. They wanted to document that it is not a good situation for a nature preserve to have vehicles driving in and out all day. They also asked for a reduction of the size of the storage area. They also think it can be accessed from a different point that would result in less traffic in the Preserve.

Brown said Physical Plant (of which Grounds is part) pushed back against the issues brought up. They are considering access to the storage area from the gardens. Brown said the Friends don't need to do anything else on this right now. He said he will continue to work carefully on the issue. He said the update of the Preserve Master Plan will be a good time to talk more about the issue.

Lenehan asked if the UW Ornithology class got a permit to use the Preserve. Wyatt replied that yes, contact has been made with the class, and we now ask all classes, even if they are only observing from trails to get a permit, so that we can capture and record these students benefitting from the use of the Preserve. We need to demonstrate to the University how the Preserve continues to support the teaching and research mission of the Preserve.

Sentoff asked how many people use the Preserve. Brown said we don't know but we have been looking at ways to add a digital counter at the entry to Picnic Point to get a better sense of use. The Picnic Point path and Picnic Point in general, is one of the highest used areas and would give us a sense of the number of annual users. We would also want to see if we can count use on the Temin Lakeshore Path at various locations with a similar type of device.

Kutzbach thinks there should be more information on the citizen science projects taking place in the Preserve. She suggested adding signs to the bluebird trail or having an entrance sign at the Eagle Heights Gardens entrance. Brown noted that adding information in the Preserve kiosks is a possibility.

Lenehan asked if the lights at the new Lot 130 will be on through the entire night. She doesn't want them to be on all night. Brown said the parking lot still closes at 10pm. He is not sure if the lights will go off then or not. Kutzbach said she also doesn't want to see the lights on all night. She said it changes the character of the area. Brown said he will look into turning off the lights.

Lenehan asked if campus is considering bird friendly glass in the new Gym/Nat building. Brown said campus considers it for all new buildings.

Lenehan wanted an update on the bridge on the south end of the Class of 1918 Marsh. Brown said a proposal for replacement was submitted as part of a larger list of campus maintenance project requests to the State of Wisconsin. He has also included in a separate funding request to the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration.

4. Strategic plan update

Brown noted that about 600 people took the online survey. Approximately 30% of the respondents were students. A great deal of positive feedback was gathered at the focus group meetings. Data is being pulled together by the Office of Strategic Consulting and a draft document will be available at the next Preserve Committee meeting on November 1, 2019 from noon-1:30pm in Union South. It is hoped that the strategic plan will be finalized by the end of the calendar year.

The next public stakeholder meeting for the FY20 Preserve work plan and budget will be on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 5:00 PM.