

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management -FPM
Preserve Staff Reports – December 15, 2023

OPERATIONS - PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Interim Director

No permits issued since our last meeting in November

- Activity on the land has begun to slow as our attention turns to compiling records/reports and looking ahead to work planning and budgeting for the upcoming season. The next few weeks will provide time for much needed reflection and respite.
- Our team continues discussions and meeting with Rene’ Heiden (co-founder of the local non-profit – Mundo Esperanza - a mission to honor and increase in awareness the principals, practices, and spiritual beliefs of the indigenous peoples of the Americas) and Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation to explore new program development opening access to Preserve lands to the Ho-Chunk and other indigenous peoples. Called *The Land Spirit Project*, this project/idea is supported by members of the UW-Madison Native Nations Placemaking subcommittee. The project continues under initial discussions. Bryn is working to facilitate volunteers to assist with wood removal off the mounds in Eagle Heights during January.
- An assortment of high-risk ash throughout the Preserve have been identified for removal. We appreciated the additional \$50,000 in funding which is provided by the administration to address this hazard.
- As we approach winter, be sure to schedule a walk through the Preserve to view the stark beauty of trees void of camouflaging foliage and while the movements and sounds of wildlife are amplified in the silence of the season. This is my favorite time of year to be out in the woods. Park at Raymer’s Cove or Frautschi Point and seek a trail running along the lake. Look for a bench overlooking the lake to pause and meditate as you gaze across the lake. The adventure is best on a bright, sunny day.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- On the east end of the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path at the Limnology Building a study is being done to see if the path can be improved along the south side of the building, toward the Preserve.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Lakeshore Nature Preserve Outreach Center Advanced Plan is complete. Further design and construction will be at a future time.
- Eagle Scout Landon Koch and crew built three new firewood racks and installed them in the Preserve – same locations as the previous ones. Rhonda guided the design decisions and Bryn worked with the Scout on logistics and on-site installation.
- Fire Circle 3 – round wood seats will be replaced and two loose seats will be added for visitors to place as they like.

LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE – Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Worked with NAA student crew continuing brush removal and cut-stem treatments at the head of Picnic Point and the water utility field.
- Implemented Rx burn November 15 with Preserve staff along the eastern shoreline of Frautschi Point. The burn acted as a good training event, providing the first live fire experience for both Parker and Soleil.
- Coordinated with Good Oak Ecological Services crew and Preserve volunteers to implement Rx burns November 18 in central Bill's Woods and the south end of Frautschi Point (Second Oak unit).
- Planning with LA 581 instructor Jeb Barzen to expand the course offering to a second session and use the Preserve (Biocore prairie) as another location for class live fire exercises. Seth McGee in support and interested in setting up research plots tied to the course.
- Continued discussion and planning of potential volunteer opportunities to assist in land management in Eagle Heights Woods, initially in the mounds zone.
- Continued to process collected seed, compile seed mixes and identify seed acquisition needs for project areas.
- Performed routine Preserve-wide site checks (documenting quite a bit of graffiti as of late) and Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Volunteer activities:

Volunteers continued invasive brush removal at the base of Picnic Point, southeast corner of Second Point Woods, along the south side of Eagle Heights Community Garden and Frautschi Point along the western shoreline.

- Sat 11-18-23, Drop-in, cut and treat buckthorn and honeysuckle and remove honeysuckle, old tree line Biocore Prairie, 23 volunteers
- Sat 11-18-23, Multicultural Greek Council, cut and treat buckthorn, Frautschi Point west shoreline, 15 volunteers
- Sat 12-2-23, Drop-in, finish cutting and treating buckthorn and honeysuckle, Frautschi Point west shoreline, 25 volunteers
- Sat 12-2-23, Engineers for a Sustainable World, remove buckthorn and restack old brush piles, Frautschi Point triangle, 7 volunteers
- Sun 12-3-23, Business Badgers and Beyond, remove buckthorn, southern edge of Eagle Heights Community Gardens, 12 volunteers
- Sun 12-3-23, Eagle Scout firewood rack installation, Picnic Point, ~25 volunteers
- Thurs 12-7-23, Earth Partnership Indigenous Arts and Sciences: Restoration Education and Stewardship FIG, sow native prairie seed, Frautschi Point field edge, ~ 10 volunteers

Total volunteers:

UW – 90

Other – 27

Outreach activities:

- Promoted #GivingTuesday (11-28-23)
- Composed and sent Fall Thank you cards to partners, donors, and volunteers
- Met with Director of Campus and Visitor Services and Special Events Coordinator from the Chancellor's Office; Preserve will participate in the 175th Anniversary Open House/Science Expeditions



Boy Scout Landon Koch (in front, blue coat) built 3 new firewood racks for Picnic Point as part of his Eagle Scout project.