



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

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Thursday March 14, 2024
12:30 to 2:00pm
Remote Zoom meeting
Minutes

Present

Rob Beattie, David Drake, Josh Goldman, Claudia Guzman, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Anna Pidgeon, Elmo Rawling, Evie Sellers, Will Vuyk, Kyle Webert

Also Present

Ann Burgess, Adam Gundlach, Sara Hotchkiss, Bryn Scriver, Bri Stevens, Laura Wyatt

Minutes

The minutes from November 17, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent. There was no quorum for the December 15, 2023 meeting; no approval is needed for the notes.

Student Engagement Grant presentation (Brianna Stevens) - *Assessing the accessibility of Lakeshore Nature Preserve for individuals with mobility issues using GPS monitoring and GIS*

1) Objective: Design an inexpensive and accessible GPS/GIS methodology that can be used to assess green space usage/accessibility.

GIS Methodology

- Used “Tractive Live” GPS tracking collar for cats that featured location, time spent, route.
- Cost was initially \$100/year but during the project changed to \$100/collar/year.

Results:

- Expensive subscription
- Few participants
- Difficult to work with (battery life, difficult to charge, pocket vs wrist)
- Difficult to convince people to willingly track themselves
- Difficult to extract data from Tractive
- Easy to monitor participants with live tracking (time spent vs stopped)

Desired results:

- Inexpensive after the initial purchase of devices
- Easily monitor participants with Live Tracking
- Conveniently extract location data into GIS
- Comfortable to wear

2) Objective: Understand where and for how long individuals use certain trails and sites in the Preserve

Engagement results:

- 31 participants (Friends of the Preserve and in-person participants)

- Participant feedback
- Survey results
- Analysis map
- Access map

In person results:

- Difficult to find restrooms
- Requests for more accessible bathrooms
- Parent or family members have stopped visiting the Preserve despite wanting to
- Adult express concerns of tripping on large fall
- Fear of or avoiding the Preserve due to ice in winter

How could access be improved?

- Trails adjusted for less slope
- Benches for resting; frequent benches
- Signs, arrows
- Removal of fallen trees

Survey results:

- Generally, people visit at least once per month
- 1-1.5 hour visit
- Have either no mobility restriction or injuries/chronic conditions requiring a slower pace
- Enjoy visiting

Recommendations:

- Continue to support existing work and enhance accessibility on the path to Picnic Point
- Incorporate more benches
- Accessible – ADA, easy to find, signs to restrooms
- New visitor center
- Additional outreach

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Vuyk)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Report – March 14, 2024

You are invited to the 23rd Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Annual meeting on April 3 with special guest speaker Dr Jessica Hua. The Friends have had a wonderful time working with her on the Friends of Amphibians Citizen Science Project.

Associate Vice Chancellor Cindy Torstveit response to budget letter (Rob Beattie)

In April 2023 this committee sent a letter to the Chancellor and the Provost to support the transfer of Preserve administration to the Office of Sustainability as well as asking pointed questions about the ensuring a robust and sustainable budget for the Preserve. We received a response in October 2023. Since then, Rob Beattie reached out to the group that received the letter inviting them to a Preserve Committee meeting. Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning and Management Cindy Torstveit has accepted an invitation to attend a Preserve Committee meeting, possibly in May. We want to talk about planning for the future of the Preserve and the future budget. Please think about what we want to ask her. We will include the April 2023 letter in next month's meeting materials for new members to review.

Staff Updates

1) Interim Director (Laura Wyatt)

See Preserve Staff Reports – March 14, 2024

I want to call your attention to one of the permits. ROTC uses Frautschi Point for training exercises. I've heard from captains that having this facility helps them rate very high when they go to regional or national challenges. Even so, seeing a bunch of people in the woods wearing military fatigues can be a little unsettling for some people. Therefore, they post a sign at the entrance, and UWPD and Housing are aware of when they do these exercises. I think it's another example of how the Preserve helps learning on campus.

One correction to Laura's notes: The Board of Regents accepted a gift from Jerry Frautschi and family for the Frautschi Center on February 8-9 (not March 8-9).

We (with support from the UW Foundation) have been challenged to raise an additional \$5 million for the Frautschi Center Fund for the Future to support ongoing operations (including, but not limited to, building maintenance, improvements, and upgrades) and programming for the operations and programming for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Frautschi Center and its outdoor spaces. While the Foundation will target donors of gifts \$25,000 and larger, our staff will provide opportunities for donation of all sizes up to that level.

2) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)

See Preserve Staff Reports – March 14, 2024

Laura added that the issue of lighting and paving the Temin Lakeshore Path has come up many times. When the Preserve was under the guidance of the UW Arboretum a study was done. She has asked that the Preserve Committee be kept informed about the new study. She thinks the committee should have a role since the path is in the Preserve.

3) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)

See Preserve Staff Reports – March 14, 2024

4) Volunteer and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports – March 14, 2024

The volunteer numbers on the report do not include the 83 students who volunteered this past weekend.

Frautschi Center Update and Frautschi Center Fund for the Future (Laura Wyatt and Rhonda James)

Laura thanked Rhonda James for all her work and attention to detail as the project manager for the Frautschi Center Advanced plan. According to Rhonda, "This is going to be the coolest building this campus has seen!"

Since the news reports announcing the gift from Jerry Frautschi and family, there have been some questions about where the building will be located. Everything will be outside the stone wall. And to improve safety, University Bay Drive and the parking lot will be flipped. If you arrive by car, you can get right from the parking lot to the Preserve or the Frautschi Center without crossing a road and bike path.

The new facility will display land care and sustainability. It will have public restrooms and drinking water accessible from both inside and outside the building. The center will have an exhibit area, a multipurpose room, a serving kitchen, and staff offices.

The next step in the process will be design. Rhonda will continue to provide updates to the committee. Construction may begin in late 2025 with completion by summer or fall 2026.

The goal is for the building to meet the core level of the [Living Building Challenge](#).

Master Plan Update (Laura Wyatt and Rhonda James)

This agenda item will be tabled due to time and revisited at the next meeting.

Closed Session - Student Engagement Grant proposal review and vote (Kyle Webert, Education Subcommittee)

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator