

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – October 17, 2016

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Director

Thanks again to everyone for volunteering to serve on this important committee that helps us manage the 300-acre Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Fall is well upon us now as the colors are really starting to pop and a light frost has got us all moving more quickly in the early morning hours. The Campus Master Plan process also continues to move forward with the city of Madison review process. We expect our local neighborhood groups to provide recommendations in late October and that we will get final city approval in late 2016 or early 2017. We also have begun our fiscal year 2017 Preserve staff Work Plan and fiscal budget planning with the first of two stakeholder meetings held last Tuesday, October 11. We had a great conversation about what has been done so far this year and what we can look forward to in the next 6 months as we prepare for next year. Please watch for draft budget and work plan information as we get closer to the end of the fall semester (likely last week of November) for review at our December committee meeting. The Preserve Committee will be voting on the final draft documents at our February 2017 meeting.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Our seasonal temporary worker, Jonah Burns, has returned to school and is no longer with us. We have hired Allison Ban-Her (2016 former intern) to assist with end of season land management activities.

Anne Pearce, hired to lead our special initiative on invasive plants and funded by a generous donor, has taken a fulltime position with Associate Professor Mark Renz's lab here on campus in the Agronomy Department. We are fortunate that she will be assisting our program next year, through Mark's "weed lab", as we begin our second season of this four-year project.

We have recruited and provided orientation for five Preserve reoccurring volunteers. This is our initial effort to recruit individuals for specific Preserve related tasks that will be completed on a continuing basis. The tasks include: invasive species mapping, checking trailhead signs and benches, tool maintenance and repair, kiosk maintenance, office duties and maintaining native plant beds.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Projects in and adjacent to the Preserve:

1. Haight Road Reconstruction: Construction nearly complete Fall 2016.
2. Near West Recreation Fields – Project continues in construction with an estimated completion date of late fall 2016 with landscape restoration to be completed in spring 2017.
3. Willow Creek Sediment Trap – This city of Madison project will create a concrete sediment trap in Willow Creek at the city storm outfall at Campus Drive. Construction will begin in mid to late October and extend through the winter. Landscape restoration will be in the Spring 2017.
4. West Campus Stormwater: The contractor continues regular maintenance of the bioswales along University Bay Drive and throughout Eagle Heights. Preserve staff will assume long term management in fall 2017.
5. Housing Storage Shed and Recycling lot - re-bidding winter 2016, construction in 2017.

Projects in the Preserve:

1. Preserve kiosk at Picnic Point entrance – The project was funded with proceeds from the Preserve’s Dugan Fund at the UW Foundation. The project will include installation of a kiosk and aesthetic improvements of the main pedestrian entrance and is currently under construction.
2. Picnic Point Automatic Gate – The project includes the installation of an automatic gate opener and refurbishment of the historic iron gates. Currently in design for Spring 2017 installation.
3. Fire Circle 3 at the narrows – refurbish the vegetation and slope in the area, new benches and permanent fire circle. Currently in design, spring 2017 construction.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

Eagle Heights Woods Project:

1. Good Oak Ecological Services began buckthorn resprout follow-up control in the Indian Mounds zone, and will be continuing work on October 19 moving into the Central zone, which was cleared of invasive brush last winter.
2. Scheduling with Wolfe Tree Service to implement the next round of hazard tree mitigation along trails, and then in the vicinity of the Indian mounds later this winter, given adequate frozen ground conditions.

Field Work:

1. Willow Creek Savanna - Good Oak Ecological Services is scheduled to perform a broadcast herbicide application to the southeast corner of the site in preparation for seeding native prairie vegetation. This site was formerly mowed and used by Rec Sports as a “putting green.”
2. Volunteers have been busy mulching trails, cutting brush, and collecting seed. Currently preparing for a large volunteer event in Frautschi Point with Naval ROTC doing more of the same.
3. Planning potential fall burn units for Biocore prairie, Eagle Heights Woods, Willow Creek savanna, and Picnic Point.
4. Planning fall/winter brush removal and resprout control in sections previously cleared.
5. Assessing site conditions and planning fall garlic mustard treatments.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

Since our last meeting we have had 2 regularly scheduled drop-in volunteer events and a number of student and community groups that have volunteered.

In the last month volunteers have:

- Cleared buckthorn between the main Picnic Point path and the shoreline, the edge of Lake Mendota Drive, and along the Big Oak trail, Muir Woods and Caretaker’s Woods
- Applied wood chips to trails at Picnic Point and Frautschi Point
- Collected trash along a portion of Lake Mendota Drive
- Weeded and cleaned up the Limnology Garden
- Weeded, planted native plugs, and applied mulch at Gard Storytellers Circle
- Collected seed in Biocore Prairie for future planting

We attended the Fall Morgridge Center Public Service Fair to promote volunteer opportunities and the Students for the Preserve. We also continue to completing changes to the new Preserve website.