

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Preserve Staff Reports –November 18, 2015

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

Preserve staff continue to work on the 2016 Work Plan and Budget for presentation as a draft to the committee in December. We have yet to get direction from the FP&M Associate Vice Chancellor or the Vice Chancellor of Finance & Administration on projections or instructions for the FY17 budget. The 2016 budget escaped any reductions and we hope that we will not have any reductions in our 101 funding support again in the coming year.

The 2015 Campus Master Plan Update continues in development with conceptual alternatives currently under review. The first draft overall master plan will be presented publically in late February 2016 and we will plan to share that information with the Preserve Committee at their February or March meeting. Several areas in the master plan directly relate to the Preserve including Observatory Hill, Charter Street (from Observatory Drive down to the Temin Lakeshore Path), Willow Creek/Linden Drive, and the West Campus area. We continue to encourage committee members and interested friends to remain involved and provide input into the developing master plan update.

I also continue to encourage interested stakeholders to be involved in the West Natatorium Recreational Fields project. A scoping meeting was held on November 12 to define what the Environmental Impact Assessment on the project. A draft EIA will be available for public review in early 2016.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Staff has been reviewing where we are with the current year's budget and projecting ahead to the new budget which begins March 1, 2016 and runs through February 28, 2017. The Planning and Implementation subcommittee met to review project proposals received for the upcoming year. Look for a budget presentation at our December meeting.

The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is supported through the UW FPM for 3.2 FTEs. The Preserve utilizes approximately \$70,000 in additional funds for operational expenses including our seasonal part-time staff, contractors for prescribed fire, chipping, herbicide applications and limited arboriculture services, plants and seeds for restoration, signs, audio tour, volunteer supplies, equipment and maintenance, signage, cleaning of pit toilets and more. This operating support is available through gifts made to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Stewardship Fund facilitated by the UW Foundation. To ensure we do not dip too heavily into reserves, we are initiating a fund raising appeal to let past donors and supporters know how important gifts are for the support of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Approximately 300 appeal cards (complete with photo of the Preserve and message) will be sent to past donors and supporters of the Preserve. Look for a mailing in mid-December. This effort is being coordinated with the UW Foundation and assistance by Ann Burgess.

The Preserve installed two benches in recognition of memorial gifts of \$10,000 given to the Preserve Stewardship Fund in memory of **Robert F. "Bob" Hendricks** - UW Campus Planner and **John T. McNelly** - Evjue Bascom Professor of Journalism.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

West Campus Stormwater Project: The contractor continues to provide on-going maintenance. The Preserve will assume all maintenance activities in fall the of 2016.

Eagle Heights Apartments Storage Shed & Recycling Lot: design continues, 35% review late in 2015. Construction in 2016.

Haight Road Reconstruction: design continues, 35% review late in 2015. Construction in 2016.

West Natatorium Recreation Fields: The EIA scoping meeting was held on November 12 and overall design continues.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

Eagle Heights Woods Project:

- Good Oak Ecological Services completed buckthorn resprout/seedling treatment in Indian Mounds Zone.
- Good Oak also started to remove woody debris piles from the vicinity of the Indian Mounds.
- A Hazard tree assessment has been completed for the Indian Mounds and trail system.
- Quercus Land Stewardship Services completed prescribed burn November 9 across 2.5 acres of the Indian Mounds Zone.
- Preserve staff have started to flag off the boundaries for the next round of brush removal to be performed by Good Oak Ecological Services, which will expand the Indian Mounds Zone to the west and push into the Central Zone to the south.
- Hazard tree removal by Wolfe Tree Service is being planned for the fall and winter.

Prescribed Burns Completed:

- Biocore prairie (~8 acres) - October 26
- Eagle Heights Woods (oak woodland, ~2.5 acres) - November 9
- Raymer's Cove prairie (~0.25-acre) - November 9
- Heritage Oak [Bill's Woods] (oak savanna/woodland, 0.25-acre) - November 9
- Capstone Oak [base of Picnic Point] (oak/pine woodland, 3 acres) - November 9

Hazard tree removal by UW Grounds Dept. planned along the Temin Lakeshore Path and main Picnic Point path starting around Thanksgiving break.

Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

Since Oct 21 we've had 156 volunteers donate 393 hours to the care of the Preserve.

Members of the Sierra Student Coalition removed buckthorn and cleared sight lines on the Lakeshore Path at Lot 34. A number of student groups and individuals learned about common buckthorn and how invasive woody plants can negatively impact natural areas before clearing buckthorn on the base of Picnic Point.

The Naval ROTC worked at Muir Woods to chip trails, collect trash and remove woody plants including buckthorn to increase visibility to address safety concerns. UW Grounds Department worked with us to supply 25 yards of wood chips for the trails and handle the woody debris that came out of the woods.