

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports –December 9, 2015

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

Preserve staff continue to develop our 2016 Annual Work Plan and budgets for the coming year. Draft information will be presented at the December committee meeting and a final set of documents will be shared in February for action. Please make sure you are available for our February 2016 meeting as we vote on these important documents and chart the course of our future work in the Preserve.

I am happy to report a recent donation to the Preserve Stewardship account of \$100,000 from Roma Lenehan to be used for herbaceous weed removal within the Preserve over the next four years. Preserve staff are working to develop an implementation plan.

The 2015 Campus Master Plan Update process continues with various alternatives being current considered across campus. Several are in or near the Preserve including changing Observatory Hill, north of Observatory Drive, into an oak savannah/meadow landscape, relocating the parking and adding in significant teaching/research landscapes for stormwater management. Future plans for the west campus, around Lot 60, continue to evolve with the projected demand for additional health science teaching and research facilities along with a new track/soccer complex. We continue to receive a lot of good feedback on this area and look forward to narrowing the alternatives down to our first preliminary draft campus master plan in February. Please continue to watch our website at www.masterplan.wisc.edu for further information. Our next public open house will be on February 24, 2016 from 7 to 9 PM in the Gordon Dining & Event Center.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Staff has been busy working on the 2016 work plan and budget. Through the generosity of donors we have three significant additions; Eagle Heights Woods management (\$31,200 funded by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve), herbaceous weed initiative (\$25,000 for four years funded by Roma Lenehan) and Picnic Point entrance kiosk (\$20,000 funded by the Patricia E. Dugan Fund established in July, 2011).

Our end-of-year thank you/appeal card is soon to be mailed to 300+ past donors and supporters of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. A huge thank you to Ann Burgess for assisting with the project and even hand addressing envelopes. An additional big thank you to Ann for arranging a meeting with Cathie Bruner at which Cathie shared numerous stories and guidance regarding past donors and supporters of the Preserve. Great conversation!

Preserve staff along with the campus planning & landscape architecture team and other departments of Facilities Planning and Management will be moving to 30 N. Mills the week of December 14. E-mail addresses and phone number will remain the same, only the address will be different. A comment on e-mail addresses. . .with our recent migration to Office 365, our preferred e-mail addresses following this format firstname.lastname@wisc.edu. Example is laura.wyatt@wisc.edu .

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

West Campus Stormwater: contractor continues maintenance, Preserve to assume in fall 2016.

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

Housing Storage Shed and Recycling lot: design continues, 35% review late in 2015. Construction in 2016.

Near West Recreation Fields: EIA held, design continues.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

Eagle Heights Woods Project:

- Boundary of Central Zone brush clearing has been flagged.
- Good Oak Ecological Services will be performing brush removal week of December 14.
- Still in the process of scheduling hazard tree removals with arborist contractor.

Trail maintenance:

- Removed downed trees from trails in multiple locations.
- Continued to mulch trails in Muir Woods with wood chips.

Potential small-scale prescribed fire planned for section of Biocore prairie in preparation for seeding.

Planning upcoming field work, mainly invasive brush resprout follow-up treatments in many locations, and seed sowing in certain project areas at Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, Eagle Heights Woods.

Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

In 2015, 833 individuals and 54 student and community groups donated more than 3200 hours of service to the care of the Preserve. About 60% of our volunteers in 2015 were UW-Madison students. Winter drop-in volunteer event dates have been set and are advertised on our website and on the UW Events calendar. We are working on updating the website.