

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports –February 22, 2016

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

As we continue to work towards final review and approval of the 2016 Work Plan and Budget, we held our second stakeholder meeting on February 3, 2016 to gather input and response to the draft documents. Those documents will be reviewed for approval at our February 22 meeting. Also, with the roll out of the preliminary draft 2015 Campus Master Plan update this week, we plan to do an overview on the draft recommendations in and around the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Preserve Committee members are encouraged to attend the public open house on February 24 at 7 PM in the Gordon Dining & Event Center to see the full presentation and offer input and comments. Comments can also be provided on our Campus Master Plan website at [www.masterplan.wisc.edu](http://www.masterplan.wisc.edu)

**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Each year our budget is supported by approximately \$70,000 of undesignated gift funds made available through the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Stewardship account held at the UW Foundation. In December we sent an end-of-year thank you /appeal card to current and past supporters. We received **18 undesignated gifts to the Stewardship account totaling \$12,699**. Five gifts were from “new” donors, six gifts were from donors who haven’t given since 2013 or earlier and six gifts were from donors who had given in 2015. We plan to cultivate our donors by keeping in touch by sharing the annual report and the summer issue of the Preserve newsletter.

As reported at the December Preserve meeting, as the result of a very special friend we will be able to expand our ability to manage and remove troublesome and invasive herbaceous plant species within the Preserve. A designated gift, applied over a four-year period, will allow the Preserve to add an additional seasonal team member who will not only target specific weed species for removal, but also expand our mapping capability and enable the Preserve to expand our outreach to students and adult community volunteers.

Our current “drop-in” bi-monthly volunteer program has been wildly successful with **833 individual volunteers donating more than 3,200 hours during 2015**. This addition of part-time staff will enable us to facilitate the interests of those volunteers who would like to participate in a regular, reoccurring activity on maybe a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Details are still being worked on, but we hope to have someone in place by April.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS** - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

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

**Haight Road Reconstruction:** design continues, 100% review ongoing. Construction in 2016.

**Housing Storage Shed and Recycling lot:** design continues, 100% review ongoing. Construction in 2016.

**Near West Recreation Fields:** EIA held, design continues. Construction in 2016.

## **LAND MANAGEMENT** - Adam Gundlach - Field Projects Coordinator

### **Eagle Heights Woods Project:**

- Good Oak Ecological Services has completed invasive brush removal across much of the Central Zone. Brush was chipped onsite, staged in piles along trails, and will be spread on trails by volunteers come spring.
- Wolfe Tree service completed felling of hazard trees along trails in the central and southern portions of the woods. Additional removals are tentatively planned in the Indian Mounds Zone, depending on ground conditions following recent above average temperatures.

### **Seeding/Planting**

- Sowed seed in various project areas at Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, and Eagle Heights Woods.
- Drafting plant orders for spring plug planting in various project areas (Tent Colony Woods, Frautschi Point, Picnic Point, Temin Lakeshore Path, Muir Woods).

### **Prescribed Burn Planning**

In the process of updating burn plan documents and maps for potential units to be burned this spring.

### **UW Prescribed Fire Policy**

Working with Mike Hansen, UW Arboretum Land Care Manager, to draft a policy document that will guide the use of prescribed fire for on UW-Madison properties. The initial draft is nearing completion.

### **Field Work Planning**

Identifying tasks to be completed across the Preserve in 2016, and earmarking available resources (staff, contractors, volunteers, interns, and UW Grounds Dept.) to get the job done.

### **Prairie Partners Internship Program**

Met with representatives from the partner organizations to plan logistics for hiring, pre-season orientation, and development of educational enrichment activities and speakers to be offered throughout the summer field season.

## **OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS** – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

In January we talked to 59 students at the Morgridge Public Service Fair where we were recruiting volunteers, promoting the Students for the Preserve, and advertising the Prairie Partners internships and the Student Engagement Grant opportunity. The spring semester drop-in volunteer event dates have been scheduled and advertised on our website, the UW Events calendar, as well as other outlets. In addition to the drop-in volunteer dates we are planning a spring garlic mustard pull and planting party with the Friends of the Preserve. We are also planning an Earth Day/Arbor Day planting with the Student for the Preserve.

We are continuing to move and update the website and look to a late summer completion date.