



2015 Work Plan 6-month Status Report

The following document provides an overview and status report of the ongoing work in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve facilitated by staff within Facilities Planning & Management. This is not an exhaustive list of duties or work, but does provide a general understanding of what has been completed thus far during the current year. The initiatives shown are also not prioritized, understanding that Preserve staff will work on the initiatives throughout the year with the ultimate goal to complete as much of the work as possible based on available staff and financial resources. The work plan is annually reviewed by Preserve staff and approved by the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee to provide guidance on priorities and initiatives to be undertaken in the year ahead. Major initiatives, not on this list that may come up throughout the year, will be considered in the following fiscal year deliberations for inclusion in future work plans. Projects already started in previous years are a priority for implementation and completion.

1) LAND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Monitor and control priority non-native plant species across entire Preserve (e.g., porcelain berry, Japanese hedge parsley, garlic mustard).

***Status:** Porcelain berry - Seedlings and young vines continue to be encountered across a large portion of the Preserve. Mature vines with berries were discovered in several locations; berry-producing vines were discovered in some of the old hot spots as well as new locations. Where possible, vines with berries were removed and disposed of; vines ascending into the upper canopy make berry removal difficult. Years of vigilant management will be needed to keep this vine in check. Efforts to control porcelain berry have been financially supported by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.*

Japanese hedge parsley - Though not widespread, Japanese hedge parsley continues to be found in new locations around the Preserve. Volunteer Roma Lenehan discovered a small population adjacent to the Raymer's Cove parking lot, and first-year plants were discovered along a trail near the Picnic Point entrance.

Garlic mustard - Monitoring and removal efforts by volunteers and staff occurred across the majority of the Preserve.

Other priority species under management in portions of the Preserve include: Canada thistle, leafy spurge, teasel, Asian bittersweet, various legumes, and wild parsnip.

- Continue follow-up management in sites cleared of buckthorn and honeysuckle in preceding years (i.e., resprout treatment, general weed control, over seeding).

***Status:** Ongoing. Willow Creek savanna received routine weed control throughout the growing season. Much of our woody resprout follow-up control will take place in fall/winter 2015-16 in areas cleared along Picnic Point, Bill's Woods, Willow Creek Woods, and Frautschi Point. See below for discussion of Eagle Heights Woods management. The Prairie Partners intern crew, funded by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, assisted with follow-up management in many of these areas.*

- Establish greater diversity of native vegetation through over seeding and planting in sites that have been adequately prepared.

***Status:** Plugs were planted by volunteers in several locations along trails this spring (Frautschi Point, Picnic Point). Previous year's seedings continue to become established in several locations (Picnic Point, Willow Creek Woods, Frautschi Point), with new species emerging over the growing season.*

- Continue to pursue prescribed fire as a land management tool where site conditions allow and in conformance with the Preserve Master Plan.

***Status:** The spring 2015 burn season proved challenging. A ½-acre test burn was conducted in Biocore prairie, but smoke dispersal conditions did not meet our requirements to proceed and further burns were postponed. Similarly, a 1-acre stretch along the south shore of Picnic Point was burned the same day, but inadequate smoke dispersal conditions again forced further burns to be postponed. Other potential burn windows were missed due to burn restrictions imposed by the City of Madison Fire Department.*

Preserve staff are collaborating with UW Arboretum staff to finalize a prescribed fire policy for UW-Madison lands. In October, Staff will also be participating in a meeting with representatives from Madison Fire Department, Wisconsin DNR, UW Arboretum and private contractors to discuss the City's permitting process, interpretation of DNR fire danger ratings, and recent restrictions that have limited the capacity to achieve prescribed fire goals.

- Implement approved management plans, and begin to draft management plans for additional sections of the Preserve.

***Status:** The Eagle Heights Woods management plan continues to be implemented. Vegetation surveys were conducted in the Central Zone in spring and summer 2015, through the efforts of three Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve members, Suzy Will-Wolf, Glenda Denniston, and Ann Burgess, with assistance from the Prairie Partners intern crew. The surveys will provide baseline data ahead of initial brush removal in this section of woods during the fall/winter.*

Good Oak Ecological Services was hired this summer as the Preserve's vegetation management contractor. Crews will begin this fall controlling buckthorn resprouts and seedlings in the Indian Mounds Zone, removing excess woody debris piles, and conducting initial brush removal in the Central Zone. Trees deemed hazardous to trail users or Indian mounds, and/or undesirable to management goals, will also be identified and removed.

No new management plans have been drafted for other areas of the Preserve at this time.

2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- Implement volunteer program goals and policies.

***Status:** Ongoing. See metrics below on the volunteer program.*

- Engage volunteers in meaningful land stewardship activities in support of Preserve goals.

***Status:** Ongoing. For the first six months of FY15, approximately 575 volunteers donated 1,547 hours to the care of the Preserve. Spring and summer volunteer work parties focused on invasive shrub removal on Picnic Point and in Muir Woods, garlic mustard removal Preserve-wide, planting native plants at Frautschi Point, and collecting seed in Biocore Prairie.*

- Manage the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website and social media sites.

***Status:** Ongoing. We are in the process of updating the Preserve website in preparation for migrating it from unsupported software to a UW DoIT-supported software. We continue to post content to both Facebook and Twitter on a regular basis.*

- Continue to provide site-based and virtual information through temporary work activity signs, audio trail recordings, and the website.

***Status:** We continue to support the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Audio Trail and Class of 1918 Marsh Audio Field Trip via cell phone service and our website. Our website also hosts the National Science Foundation sponsored Water Sustainability and Climate Project “Water Walk” video series. Temporary signs are regularly updated and replaced to provide information to Preserve visitors.*

- Continue to develop on-going partnerships with organizations and community groups, including the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

***Status:** Ongoing. In the first 6 months of FY15 we have worked with and involved 37 student and community groups in caring for the Preserve through volunteer events. Preserve staff continues to mentor and support the Students for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We also continue to work closely with the Friends of the Preserve to inform both the Eagle Heights Apartments Community and UW Health employees about the Preserve and ways to get involved. We continue to offer “Renew the Blue” Volunteer Days to Clean Lakes Alliance partnership organization members. We also responded to requests from United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) and Living Our Visions, Inc. (LOV-DANE) to provide teens and young adults with special needs opportunities to serve their community through service to the Preserve. We also reached out to the UW School of Veterinary Medicine to involve some of the 1st year students in promoting the Preserve’s dogs on leash policy.*

- Assist promotional activities as appropriate for development initiatives.

***Status:** As needed.*

3) SITE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Maintain trails, parking areas, and work with campus partners for user safety and enjoyment of the Preserve.

***Status:** Several stretches of trails (Tent Colony Woods, Picnic Point, Bill's Woods) were covered in a fresh layer of wood chips generated by brush removal activities. Additional sections of trails will likely be chipped this fall. Trail corridors were pruned to maintain user access, with high-use corridors receiving the most attention.*

- Maintain fire circles and stock wood racks (with assistance from UW Grounds Department).

***Status:** Fire circles are maintained on a daily basis, and wood racks refilled as needed to meet reservation demand.*

- Remove hazard trees, control erosion, and install safety signs and barriers (with assistance from UW Grounds Department and contractors).

***Status:** UW Grounds continues to provide support for hazard and downed tree removal along high-traffic paths, as well as regrading eroded portions of the Temin Lakeshore Path and main Picnic Point path as needed following heavy rain events. Hazard and downed trees on all other trails have been removed by Preserve staff or contractors.*

- As defined in the Preserve Master Plan, install benches as donations allow, and maintain views through selective vegetation removal.

***Status:** Memorial gifts to install two benches have been received in memory of Robert F. Hendricks and John T. McNelly.*

- Maintain Picnic Point pit toilets (Custodial Department) and continue regular trash collection (Waste and Recycling Department).

***Status:** Custodial and Recycling units of Physical Plant continue to provide regular services.*

4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Provide support for the Preserve Committee and subcommittees.

***Status:** Staff provided administrative support for the four Preserve Committee meetings and additional meetings of the "Planning and Implementation" and "Information Dissemination/Education" subcommittees held in 2015. Support includes coordination of schedules and setting dates of meetings, distribution of meeting announcements and support materials, agenda and minutes preparation, maintaining the Preserve Committee webpage, and the archiving of Committee documents in the on-line Committee document library.*

- Assist with capital project planning.

***Status:** See section "5) Capital Project Support" below.*

- Develop annual budgets and work plans.

Status: *The budget planning process has been initiated with development of the 6-month status report for the 2015 work plan and scheduling of the first public Stakeholder Meeting on September 29, 5:00 p.m. in 132 of WARF, 610 Walnut Madison, WI. A call for Project proposals has been published on the Preserve website with a deadline of November 1, 2015.*

With the turnover in University accounting staff and retirement of Preserve staff, a new budget tracking and preparation process has been developed.

- Provide development opportunities for UW Foundation fundraising, grants, and financial support to continue building the Preserve endowment and stewardship resources.

Status: *In the past 6 months, the Preserve Director and Program Manager met with UW Foundation staff on two separate occasions to discuss priorities and development opportunities available for those donors interested in making a difference within the UW Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Discussions were supported by a 2-page document that was prepared at the request of the Foundation. Preserve staff provided a field tour for three UW Foundation staff members. The Preserve says farewell to Sara Anderson and looks forward to working with Jennie Casavant at the UW Foundation.*

Preserve staff facilitated a partnership with The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve's fundraising campaign for Eagle Heights Woods and the UW Foundation. The successful campaign surpassed its goal of \$134,000 and currently stands at \$145,080 to help implement the on-going management of Eagle Heights Woods.

The Stewardship Fund has received donations of over \$23,000 from 9 different donors since March 1, 2015. Memorial gifts have been received for Robert F. Hendricks (bench), Art Hove, John T. McNelly (bench), and Dallas Miner.

- Document internal organizational operations, processes, policies and procedures. This includes pesticide use, trail clearing protocol, fire circle maintenance and wood restocking, electronic filing protocol, etc.

Status: *The Invasive Plant Control Guidance and Control Methods Handbook were developed by Preserve staff and adopted by the Preserve Committee at the April 2015 meeting. A central organizational system has been developed for Preserve working documents and will be trialed during the Preserves' office move to 30 N. Mills Street in the fall of 2015. The organizational system will eventually include both hard and electronic file information.*

- Begin the development of a strategic planning initiative to build on the overall vision and future of the Preserve.

Status: *This process is on hold until the 2015 Campus Master Plan Update process is completed. FP&M staff will look at developing a strategic planning process and updates to the 2006 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan at that time.*

- Manage permits and collaborate with student life and academic programs to enrich the quality of the resource.

Status: *Reviewed requests and monitored 30 continuing permits and issued 19 new permits since March 1, 2015.*

5) CAPITAL PROJECT SUPPORT (ALPHA ORDER BY NAME, NOT PRIORITIZED)

- a. Class of 1918 Marsh trail – Support planning for the Healing Trail - connection from hospital to Class of 1918 Marsh. (continuing project)

***Status:** Campus Planning staff will be working on a plan for connecting the hospital to the marsh and creating better access and amenities around the marsh in support of the proposed Healing Trail concept. The project currently is in early design and fundraising opportunities are being discussed.*

- b. Class of 1953 Central Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue regular maintenance. (continuing project).

***Status:** Volunteers cleared buckthorn resprouts, weeded, and planted native plugs throughout this area of the Preserve.*

- c. Class of 1955 Tent Colony Woods improvements – Continue regular maintenance with volunteer assistance from Roma Lenehan to control weeds along the Lake Mendota Drive corridor. (continuing project).

***Status:** Roma Lenehan implemented a Tent Colony roadside weed control project to replace mowing of the steep sides of the roadside along Lake Mendota Drive and prevent the introduction and spread of weed seeds. The Prairie Partners interns mulched trails and volunteers collected trash that blows into the woods from the Eagle Heights Apartments and planted native plugs.*

- d. Eagle Heights Apartments recycle lot design – Project will include area for recycling containers, runoff control, edge protection, restoration of eroded slope and a metal building for storage of Housing equipment and materials. (continuing project)

***Status:** Project is at 35% design with construction to start in spring 2016 for completion in winter 2016.*

- e. Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan – Continue follow-up maintenance and monitoring of mound zone, 2.5 acres. Begin surveying central zone, 3 acres. Begin planning for invasive species removal and structural changes of central zone. (continuing project)

***Status:** Vegetation surveys were conducted in the Central Zone in spring and summer 2015, through the efforts of three Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve members, Suzy Will-Wolf, Glenda Denniston, and Ann Burgess, with assistance from the Prairie Partners intern crew. The surveys will provide baseline data to help inform management decisions as initial brush removal takes place this fall/winter. Good Oak Ecological Services was hired this summer, and crews will be controlling buckthorn resprouts and seedlings in the Indian Mounds Zone, removing debris piles, as well as conducting initial brush clearing in the Central Zone.*

- f. Frautschi Point improvements – Continue land care improvements. (continuing project)

***Status:** The native plantings around the parking area and kiosk were weeded routinely throughout the season. The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve hosted a planting event in May 2015 and planted over 850 native plugs near the sedge point trail intersection. Porcelain berry monitoring and control occurred across much of the site. The Prairie Partners intern crew assisted with buckthorn removal follow-up along shoreline trails.*

- g. Friends Interns – Six Prairie Partners interns receive educational experiences while assisting Preserve staff with field work 1.5 days per week summer 2015. A total of 830 hours of service was provided. (continuing project)

***Status:** The Prairie Partners intern crew, funded by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, had a successful season working on a variety of tasks, from invasive species monitoring and control to trail maintenance and vegetation surveys. The crew also benefited from a number of guest speakers that broadened their awareness and understanding of issues affecting land management and ecosystem health. The intern program provided 830 hours of service to the Preserve.*

- h. Friends Spring Wildflower Planting – Expand native woodland wildflower plantings in Frautschi Point.

***Status:** The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and other volunteers planted over 850 native plant plugs in May 2015.*

- i. Tree island improvements – Plan and improve biodiversity of tree and boulder island at intersection of Eagle Heights Gardens, CALS, and Biocore Prairie. (continuing project)

***Status:** On-going.*

- j. West Campus Stormwater Project – Lot 60 stormwater pond, Triangle Marsh stormwater pond, University Bay Drive bio-retention basins.

***Status:** Monitor planting and maintenance (contractor responsible for maintenance through 2016).*

- k. Willow Creek Woods savanna restoration – Implement management plan (continuing project).

***Status:** A prescribed burn was planned for spring 2015, but was not implemented due to weather constraints. Weed control was performed throughout the season across the savanna site, targeting reed canary grass, Canada thistle, and other troublesome species. Regenerating oak seedlings/saplings around the south-central knoll of the site were marked with posts to track their growth and help protect them from management activities. All 7 swamp white oak whips planted in spring 2014 continue to put on new growth. Initial plans to expand prairie plantings into the former turf-grass area in the southeast portion of the site were discussed.*
