



2016 Work Plan

6-month status update

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: Garlic mustard populations were quit vigorous this spring. Sections of Bill's Woods and Picnic Point were treated by contractor crews. Volunteers, staff, and interns pulled garlic across much of the remainder of the Preserve.

Status: Japanese hedge parsley appears to have expanded, with the largest populations discovered near Raymer's cove and in Big Woods, and a new population discovered along a trail at the base of Picnic Point.

Status: Porcelain berry remains prevalent across much of the Preserve, though the age structure has shifted toward young vines.

Status: DNR has provided the Preserve with suppression funds to target porcelain berry (\$4,320) and Japanese hedge parsley (\$720).

Status: Jumping worms (*Amyntas spp.*) were discovered in the Preserve. A visual survey is being conducted to identify how far the infestation extends.

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

Status: Performed resprout control of invasive brush in sections of Picnic Point. The main thrust of resprout control will come this fall and early winter.

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

Status: Supplemental planting of herbaceous plugs was performed in portions of Frautschi Point, Willow Creek savanna, and Picnic Point. Young oak seedlings (whips) were planted in three locations on Picnic Point and in the old field bordering the water utility. The invasive Japanese tree lilacs were removed at the University Bay Drive entrance and replaced with native *Amelanchier spp.*

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

Status: A prescribed burn was conducted this past spring in Eagle Heights Woods, attempting to burn through areas skipped in the fall 2015 burn of the Indian Mounds Zone and expanding into the newly cleared portion of the Central Zone.

Status: An additional burn was conducted in Biocore prairie in August as part of site preps for a fall seeding in Area 6.

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

Status: No new plans have been drafted. On-going implementation of the Eagle Heights Woods and Willow Creek Savanna projects continue.

- Eagle Heights Woods Implementation – Continue follow-up control of woody resprouts and seedlings where invasive brush has been removed in the Indian Mounds and Central zones. Continue vegetation monitoring in Indian Mounds and Central Zones, and perform initial monitoring in Southern Zone. Identify potential burn units and prepare firebreaks ahead of prescribed burns. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Perform invasive brush removal in Southern zone.

Status: Spring and summer vegetation surveys were conducted in the South Zone with assistance of Friends volunteers and the Prairie Partners intern crew. Plans are in the works for buckthorn resprout follow-up control this fall in the sections cleared in previous years, and initial brush removal in the South Zone.

- Establish a service agreement with UW-Grounds outlining the services/locations routinely provide the Preserve, the approximate value and processes for review and requests.

Status: On-going, internal review document drafted. Regular coordination discussions are being held with Grounds staff.

- Create a team of volunteers which focuses on manual weed control of weedy herbaceous plants.

Status: The addition of a seasonal worker allowed us to host two groups of Badger volunteers (total of 8 people) for an eight-week period; target removal of invasives along strategic locations within the Preserve with surveys taken pre- and post- removal so the success of the management can be evaluated after a 4-year period of management; introduction and use of the GLEDN (Great Lakes Early Detection Network) computer app with invasive identification and mapping; initial development of a continuing adult volunteer program.

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 2016, 444 volunteers donated 1,198 hours to the care of the Preserve. Volunteers worked on garlic mustard and invasive shrub removal on Picnic Point, planting at Frautschi Point and Picnic Point, and trail maintenance (clearing and chipping) throughout the Preserve.

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

Status: Ongoing. The new Preserve website is nearing completion. 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 2016, we have worked with and involved 38 students and community groups in caring for the Preserve through volunteer events. A number of these groups have been involved in caring for the Preserve for multiple years including: Blackhawk Church, Chancellor’s Scholars, Army ROTC, UW MBAs, and Sierra Student Coalition. We continue to host “Renew the Blue” Volunteer Days for Clean Lakes Alliance partnership organization members. Preserve staff continues to mentor and support the Students for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

- 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 (Muir Woods, Eagle Heights Woods, Frautschi 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: Areas surrounding benches have been pruned to maintain views.

- 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 “Education” subcommittees held in 2016. 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 2016 work plan and scheduling of the first public Stakeholder Meeting on October 11, 5:30 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, 2016.

- 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 have met with UW Foundation staff to discuss priorities and development opportunities available for those donors interested in making a difference within the UW Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve. 2015 donors received a copy of the 2015 Annual Report. Those donors who are not on the mailing list for the e-newsletter received a print copy with invitation to subscribe. The Stewardship Fund has received donations of over \$14,540 since March 1, 2016.

- 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: A central organizational system has been developed for Preserve working documents. The 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 22 continuing permits and issued 25 new permits since March 1, 2016.

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. Repair bridge surface. (continuing project)

Status: Fundraising discussions and strategy for moving forward are underway.

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

Status: Volunteers transplanted prairie plants from the Cogen bioswales across the Temin path to an area of disturbance stemming from hazard tree removal. Contractor crews continued maintenance for the Lot 60 stormwater basin and will continue through 2017.

- 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 continues a Tent Colony roadside weed control project to replace mowing of the steep sides of the roadside along Lake Mendota Drive which prevents the introduction and spread of weed seeds.

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

Status: Project is to rebid this winter and be constructed in 2017.

- e. Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan – Continue follow-up control of woody sprouts and seedlings where invasive brush has been removed in the Indian Mounds and Central zones. Continue vegetation monitoring in Indian Mounds and Central Zones, and perform initial monitoring in Southern Zone. Identify potential burn units and prepare firebreaks ahead of prescribed burns. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Perform invasive brush removal in Southern zone. (continuing project)

Status: Spring and summer vegetation surveys were conducted in the South Zone with assistance of Friends volunteers and the Prairie Partners intern crew. Plans are in the works for buckthorn resprout follow-up control this fall in the sections cleared in previous years, and initial brush removal in the South 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 2016. Porcelain berry monitoring and control occurred across much of the site.

- g. Friends Interns – Five *Prairie Partners* interns receive educational experiences while assisting Preserve staff with field work 1 day per week summer 2016. (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 480 hours of service to the Preserve.

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

Status: In May 2016, volunteers from the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve planted native plant plugs in an area recently cleared of woody invasive plants.

- 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: Plan was created and volunteers have begun weeding and planting the northeast quarter of the island.

- j. West Campus Stormwater Project – Lot 60 stormwater pond, University Bay Drive bio-retention basin: monitor planting and maintenance.

Status: The contractor (AES) is responsible for maintenance through fall of 2017, then Preserve will be responsible for maintenance and Grounds will assist with mowing of the edges. Review project provided maintenance plan and adjust as needed.

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

Status: Continued control efforts for Canada thistle across the savanna site. Began invasive brush follow-up control, as ample rain this season fueled growth of undesirable woody species. Planning site prep and prairie seeding for the SE portion of the site, which was formerly a mowed area used by Rec Sports. Removed downed oak from west end of Indian mounds group.

- l. Preserve kiosk at Picnic Point entrance – funded with proceeds from the Dugan Fund. Project will include installation of a kiosk and aesthetic improvement of the pedestrian entrance.

Status: Construction to be in fall 2016.

- m. Point fire circle improvements sites 1, 3, 4 &5 – review needs and costs for improvements to these areas.

Status: As a result of a generous donation, fire circle 3 at the Narrows will be upgrade–improvements include stabilize slope, new benches, new fire circle, vegetation management, design this winter, install spring & early summer 2017.