



2013 Work Plan (Six-month Status Report – August 2013)

The following document provides a summary of the work accomplished in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve during the first six months of FY13 (March through August). This is not an exhaustive list, but does provide a general understanding of work accomplishments to this point. 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

- Connect vegetation management areas into overall Preserve-wide management objectives as defined in the Preserve Master Plan.

Status: *Removal of buckthorn and honeysuckle in wooded areas is gradually allowing connection of land areas for broader scale biodiversity management, soil protection, and infiltration of storm water.*

- Expand prescribed burn program where site conditions allow and in conformance with the Preserve Master Plan.

Status: *Burn plans were written for additional units. Plans were presented to the Preserve Executive Team and Preserve Committee. Prescribed burns were attempted on May 8. A portion of the Lot 34 unit was burned, but burn operations were forced to shut down due to wind conditions.*

- Survey, monitor, and control aggressive non-native plant species and control resurgence of invasive species in areas already cleared.

Status: *Japanese hedge parsley control has required significantly more volunteer and staff hours this year. Staff, volunteers, and contractors continue to expend hundreds of hours of labor to limit the spread of aggressive herbaceous plants, including garlic mustard, Canada thistle, and leafy spurge. Efforts continue to control the spread of porcelain berry, a highly aggressive non-native vine. Removal of buckthorn and honeysuckle thickets continues as time and labor allows. Norway maple control has only been initiated where it does NOT constitute the dominant woodland structure and canopy.*

- Develop a vegetation management policy for areas on and around Indian mounds and begin implementation.

Status: *Archaeological site standards have been drafted by Daniel Einstein and are currently under review.*

- Based on the Preserve Master Plan, inventory and map existing significant oaks or other high quality trees and selectively remove lower quality competitive trees around them to increase light levels, primarily within the base area of Picnic Point.

Status: *We continue to uncover valuable trees by removing invasive shrubs around them. To protect the “big oak” at Frautschi Point, boxelder and ash trees growing through the canopy were removed.*

- Continue to establish native vegetation in sites that have been adequately prepared.

Status: *Approximately 14 acres across the Preserve were overseeded to stabilize soils, increase native diversity and reduce invasive plant germination.*

2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- Implement volunteer program goals, policies and position descriptions.

Status: *Ongoing work on program goals and policies. Position descriptions were created for individual volunteers who check in on a weekly basis to report and coordinate activities. For the first six months of FY2013, 383 volunteers, including 24 student and community groups, donated 1,053 hours to the care of the Preserve. Spring volunteer work parties focused on invasive shrub removal and garlic mustard removal. Volunteers also moved brush piles for chipping and spread chips on trails. Two Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve memorial events allowed us to use volunteers to prepare for and plant native wildflowers and grasses at Frautschi Point and remove trash and weeds around the Class of 1819 Marsh. We also used volunteers to plant native wildflowers and grasses near the tip of Picnic Point to continue to improve this highly visible and visited part of the Preserve.*

- Continue to update and improve the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website and social media site.

Status: *Ongoing updates to the Preserve Facebook page and the Preserve website have been completed. In September 2013, the webmaster will implement menu changes developed with staff.*

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

Status: *The audio trail was expanded to include the Class of 1918 Marsh through the work of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and other volunteers. The audio trail audio recordings, as well as transcripts, are available on the Preserve website. Temporary work activity signs are posted for special advisories or notices for unusual activities.*

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

Status: *Ongoing.*

- 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: *Fallen trees and overhanging brush has been cleared from Picnic Point and Frautschi Point trails and sections of the Lakeshore Path.*

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

Status: *Several hazard trees were removed. Unauthorized trails were closed with signage and downed brush.*

- As defined in the Preserve Master Plan, install benches as donations allow.

Status: One bench near Limnology was replaced due to lake ice damage.

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

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

4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Provide support for the Preserve Committee and subcommittees.

Status: Provided informational updates and proposals, prepared minutes, coordinated schedules and set up meetings.

- Assist with capital project planning.

Status: See section “5. Capital Project Support” below.

- Develop annual budgets and work plans.

Status: In process.

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

Status: Identified projects for development promotion through UW Foundation.

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

Status: No action.

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

Status: Prepared summaries, issued permits, and reviewed requests.

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

- a. Class of 1918 Marsh trail – Open viewing areas, manage new sediment ponds by snow pile, refurbish benches.

Status: Trail has been mowed to maintain access. A new bio-swale was installed as part of the Goodman Softball Practice facility. No action taken on viewing areas, snow pile ponds or benches.

- b. Class of 1918 Marsh Audio Trail – Implement the audio trail project in memory of Stanley Dodson.

Status: Complete.

- c. Class of 1946 Frautschi Point entry improvements - Install native landscaping at the entry to Frautschi Point in and around the parking lot (by contract). Ground layer planting to be executed by Preserve staff.

Status: The conversion from grass to planting bed with granite edging was implemented by Grounds. Preserve interns, staff and volunteers completed the edging and implemented and maintained the plantings throughout the season.

- d. Class of 1953 West Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue regular maintenance.

Status: *Weed and buckthorn control is ongoing. Many native plants installed since 2009 have bloomed this season.*

- e. Class of 1955 Tent Colony Woods improvements – Continue land care improvements.

Status: *Repeat control of buckthorn and honeysuckle will be carried out by contractors in fall 2013. Volunteers and staff removed hedge parsley and weed colonies invading the woods from the road side.*

- f. Class of 1959 Picnic Point fire site improvements - Control soil erosion, protect the big Oak tree, allow lake access, and install an improved rustic fire seating area at picnic site #2.

Status: *Protection of site archeological resources, resetting of Boyd Bench and installation of fire pit and benches was completed in August 2013.*

- g. Class of 1963 East Lakeshore Path improvements- Continue invasive plant removal and maintenance of improvements.

Status: *2009 tree plantings watered and weeded.*

- h. Eagle Heights Apartments recycle lot design –complete planning for layout of containers, runoff control, edge protection, restoration of eroded slope.

Status: *Conceptual design has been proposed to UW Housing for their review.*

- i. Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan - Update Committee as plan is developed. Begin implementation when approved by Committee and funds are identified.

Status: *The management plan was completed in May 2013. Work on the site specific implementation plan for the mound zone is underway.*

- j. Eagle Heights Woods trail maintenance- Remove fallen logs as needed that are obstructing the Eagle Heights Woods trails.

Status: *Contractor has removed logs when informed.*

- k. Frautschi Point invasive plant and hazard tree removals- Continue to remove buckthorn, honeysuckle, porcelain berry, Asian bittersweet, and other invasive species; remove ash trees that will become hazards along trails.

Status: *Removed large population of creeping bellflower. Continue to remove buckthorn and honeysuckle along trails. Hedge parsley, Asian bittersweet, porcelain berry control continues.*

- l. Friends Interns - Five interns receive educational experiences while assisting Preserve staff with field work 1.5 days per week summer 2013.

Status: *Complete.*

- m. Plantings in celebration of Harriet Riley

Status: *Complete. Friends volunteers and staff carried out the planting in May 2013. Staff continues to water.*

- n. Heritage Oak: Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Vegetation Management Project – Continue to control undesirable vegetation and add groundcover. Implement prescribed burn when conditions allow.
Status: Volunteers have been weeding the project. Additional trees interfering with the oak will be removed during the dormant season fall 2013 and winter 2014.
- o. Lake Mendota Drive Pedestrian crossing path design and implementation – create a safe road crossing for pedestrians and address runoff from the parking lot that causes erosion on the east edge of the road. (new project)
Status: Conceptual design has been proposed to housing for funding discussion, plan will be shared with the Garden Oversight Committee
- p. Lakeshore Housing Shoreline Restoration: Monitor contracted maintenance.
Status: continuing to prod contractor to weed and water.
- q. Picnic Point entry improvements: Continue rain garden improvements of wet areas with planting by Preserve staff.
Status: New section of wet prairie has been installed by staff and interns and maintained by staff and volunteers.
- r. Picnic Point Improvements – Monitor contracted maintenance.
Status: Continuing to monitor weeds and need for watering; let contractor know when action is needed.
- s. Tree island improvements: Improve biodiversity of tree and boulder island at intersection of Eagle Heights Gardens, CALS, and Biocore Prairie.
Status: Invasive herbaceous plants and Canada thistle seed heads and plants were removed by staff and volunteers. Garden Oversight Committee has contributed input from EHG stakeholders. The fall/winter 2013-2014 plan will be developed with input from GOC and submitted to Preserve review process.
- t. Wally Bauman Woods: Continue control of undesirable vegetation. (2nd of 3 years of continuing project)
Status: Repeat control of buckthorn by contractors in progress August 2013.
- u. West Campus Stormwater Project - Lot 60 stormwater pond, Triangle Marsh stormwater pond, University Bay Drive bio-retention basin - Monitor design and provide review and input into the planning & design process.
Status: University Bay Drive and Lot 60 Pond are scheduled to begin in early September 2013. Construction should be complete in 2014. Triangle Pond will not begin until 2014 and be completed in 2015.
- v. Willow Creek Woods Savanna restoration – Implement management plan.
Status: Thistle and invasive grass control implemented after approval to use herbicide. Tree and shrub planting will proceed only after control of groundcover supports growth of small plants that can be planted without violation of archaeology soil disturbance standards.
