



2014 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. Scattered mature vines were discovered in a few locations, and several of these had produced berries. Where possible, vines with berries were removed and disposed. The west end of Bill's Woods harbors a sizeable population of porcelain berry in all stages of growth (seedlings, young, and mature vines). Years of vigilant management will be needed to keep this vine in check.*

Japanese hedge parsley: Fortunately, no major populations have been discovered. A few small patches were removed along the south edge of Frautschi/Second Point Woods. A small group of individuals was also removed along the trail in the prairie planting at Raymer's Cove.

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

- 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. Many areas with buckthorn and honeysuckle resprouts have been cut one or two times during the growing season. Other areas still need to be addressed in fall 2014.*

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

***Status:** Ongoing. In spring 2014, plant diversity in several locations (Picnic Point, Heritage Oak, Frautschi Point, Lakeshore Path shoreline) was bolstered with plugs of native forbs and grasses. This fall, additional native grass and forb plugs were planted in a handful of locations with volunteer assistance. Preserve staff will order seed for other units in need of dormant over seeding. In addition, the Biocore program is planning to seed areas 3b (southern end) and 4 (former garden plots along SW edge) of Biocore prairie to begin the process of establishing prairie vegetation in these areas.*

- 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 2014 burn season was a success. Conditions were ideal for a thorough burn of Biocore prairie, which stimulated prairie vegetation in several areas that had been plagued by undesirable species in previous years. Two units in the urban-interface were burned for the first time, including the Cogen Bioswales unit (west of Willow Creek) and the Willow Creek Woods savanna unit (north of the Natatorium).*

Prescribed burn plans are being developed for several units this fall along Picnic Point where sufficient fuels have accumulated. Other potential burn units include the Heritage oak project area, and the prairie planting at Raymer's Cove, which was last burned in the fall of 2011.

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

***Status:** Much progress has been made at the Eagle Heights Woods Indian mounds zone. The southwest section of the trail loop was realigned to allow more buffer space between trail users and the western linear mound. Wood chips left from winter brush removal were spread on trails with volunteer assistance. The steep trail segment connecting the mounds loop to the northeast Lake Mendota Drive trailhead was decommissioned, and a new trail corridor was blazed along the eastern slope, connecting to the east side of the mounds loop. Follow-up control of buckthorn resprouts will continue into the fall, and for many years to come.*

Management plans for other areas will be developed as resources and staff time allow.

2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- Implement volunteer program goals, policies and position descriptions.

***Status:** Ongoing. For the first six months of FY14, approximately 500 volunteers donated over 1365 hours to the care of the Preserve. Spring volunteer work parties focused on invasive shrub removal and chipping trails at Eagle Heights Wood, garlic mustard removal Preserve-wide, and planting native plants at Frautschi Point and Heritage Oak with the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Summer and early fall volunteer work focused on removing invasive shrubs on Picnic Point and collecting seed in Biocore Prairie.*

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

***Status:** Ongoing. We launched a Twitter site this spring to reach a broader social media audience. We continue to post to our Facebook page and update the Preserve website.*

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

***Status:** The Preserve continues to provide the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Audio Trail and Class of 1918 Marsh Audio Field Trip. With the help of a volunteer, we reviewed and refreshed our temporary work activity signs. We will soon provide the National Science Foundation sponsored Water Sustainability and Climate Project “Water Walk” video series on our website.*

- 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 FY14 we have worked with and involved 48 student and community groups in caring for the Preserve through volunteer events. The Preserve is working to involve and support the Students for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, a new Associated Students of Madison organization, including providing support for the Party on the Path event held in September for new UW students. We also continue to develop ways to reach out to and interact with the Eagle Heights Apartments Community with the help of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Two Friends field trips were targeted specifically for the Eagle Heights Community, and staff continues to attend Eagle Heights Community festivals to promote the Preserve. We also developed a new partnership with the Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) to offer “Renew the Blue” Volunteer Days to CLA partnership organization members.*

- 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:** Brush was pruned back along trails in the Preserve throughout the summer to maintain clearance for users. Trail sections washed out in heavy rains were repaired as needed.*

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

***Status:** A cluster of hazard trees were removed along the north edge of Big Woods, where they threatened an apartment building. A series of potential hazard trees along the main utility road and Picnic Point path have been marked by the Grounds Department arborist, and will be removed this fall or early winter. New turtle crossing signs were created and installed along University Bay Drive. New regulation signs will be installed in fall 2014 to better communicate the Preserve hours, bike routes, and dogs on leash policies.*

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

***Status:** A second bench was installed east of the Willow Creek bridge along the lakeshore path in recognition of the Class of 1963. A bench on Picnic Point has been removed for repairs and will be reinstalled in fall 2014. Repairs were made to the bench at Willow Beach after it was vandalized.*

- 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 continue 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: Planning process initiated and budget process timeline created.

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

Status: A new UW Foundation representative has been identified as they have completed their reorganization over the past year. Preserve staff will continue to coordinate fundraising efforts with the UW Foundation. A white paper was drafted and presented to campus leadership requesting that a \$3 million endowment be established to fund on-going support the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. It is hoped that this request will be part of the upcoming capital campaign effort at the UW Foundation.

- 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: 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, refurbish benches. (continuing project)

Status: No action to date on viewing areas and benches. Staff and volunteers controlled invasive species around marsh borders.

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

***Status:** Performed Asian bittersweet control work. Follow-up control of buckthorn resprouts planned for fall 2014.*

- c. Class of 1955 Tent Colony Woods improvements – Continue land care improvements. (continuing project)

***Status:** No action to date. Follow-up control of buckthorn resprouts planned for fall 2014.*

- d. Class of 1963 East Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue invasive plant removal and maintenance of improvements.(continuing project)

***Status:** Ongoing control of Asian bittersweet vines, pruning to maintain clearance along the trail and views to Lake Mendota, and general weed control. Supplemented planting along shoreline at Dejope Residence Hall, and weeded throughout growing season. Added one bench and will add a plaque in fall 2014 in recognition of the Class of 1963 gift.*

- e. 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:** Initial concept planning has been completed and shared with UW Housing for their budget planning needs. Project will move forward when approved at the State Building Commission.*

- f. Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan -

***Status:** Preserve staff began implementation of phase 1 (Indian Mounds Zone) in January 2014, with invasive brush removal in a 2.5-acre area around the Indian burial mounds. Volunteers hauled brush, chipped trails, and pulled garlic mustard and a large patch of wintercreeper. The southwest section of the trail loop was realigned to allow more buffer space between trail users and the western linear mound. The steep trail segment connecting the mounds loop to the northeast Lake Mendota Drive trailhead was decommissioned, and a new trail corridor was blazed along the eastern slope, connecting to the east side of the mounds loop. Follow-up control of buckthorn resprouts will continue into the fall, and for many years to come.*

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

***Status:** Worked with Prairie Partners intern crew to maintain lake views along the path, control buckthorn, and monitor for porcelain berry. Volunteers planted plugs of native plants and cut buckthorn and honeysuckle.*

- h. Friends Interns – Five *Prairie Partners* interns receive educational experiences while assisting Preserve staff with field work 1.5 days per week summer 2014. (continuing project)

***Status:** The interns assisted with a variety of tasks across the Preserve including garlic mustard removal, porcelain berry monitoring and control, trail construction, planting, seed collecting, and brush removal. Additionally, the intern experience was enriched through a series of educational presentations on a number of topics related to natural and cultural history of the four lakes region, bird banding, and fresh water ecology aboard the Center for Limnology's *Limnos* research vessel.*

- i. Plantings in celebration of Harriet Riley – Plant wildflowers in celebration of Harriet Riley. Second year of two year project. (continuing project)

***Status:** Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and other volunteers planted native plant plugs in spring 2014.*

- j. 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. (continuing project)

***Status:** Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and other volunteers planted native plant plugs in spring 2014. Trees competing with oaks were thinned during the summer. Small patches of reed canary grass were treated with herbicide, and other weeds were removed. Planning prescribed burn for fall 2014.*

- k. 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. (continuing project)

***Status:** Completed summer 2014. Some follow-up needed on east walk way as it is quite steep.*

- l. 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:** No action to date.*

- m. Wally Bauman Woods – Implement third year of three year project to control undesirable vegetation. (continuing project)

***Status:** No action to date. Follow-up control of buckthorn resprouts planned for fall 2014.*

- n. 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. (continuing project)

***Status:** Lot 60 stormwater pond and University Bay Drive bioretention basin install is complete. Triangle Marsh project is on hold, awaiting permitting review and approval by the Army Corps of Engineers.*

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

***Status:** A prescribed burn was completed April 6, 2014 in the savanna restoration. Invasive species (e.g., Canada thistle, buckthorn resprouts) and other weeds were controlled during the growing season. Invasive brush was removed north of the lakeshore path to open views to University Bay. Staff and volunteers planted nine bare-root swamp white oak saplings and a cluster of 15 hazelnut shrubs in the savanna, as well as herbaceous plugs.*
