

University of Wisconsin—Madison



ARBORETUM
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December 19, 1991

Arboretum Committee Members
UW-Madison Arboretum

Dear Arboretum Committee Member,

Please find enclosed a chronology of events leading to the current designation of responsibilities for campus natural areas, and the document that describes jurisdictional responsibilities. These documents may be of value to you as we begin a discussion of open areas on the campus in relationship to the campus plan. As indicated at the December meeting of the Arboretum Committee, this topic will be discussed at upcoming meetings. Please let me know if I can be of any further service in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory D. Armstrong".

Gregory D. Armstrong
Director

**CAMPUS LAND RESPONSIBILITY DEBATE
CHRONOLOGY**

- Nov. 10, 1959-Arb. Comm.-accept responsibility for Picnic Pt. apple orchard from college of Agriculture.
- Feb. 12, 1960-Arb. Comm.-Curtis suggests Arb. Comm. and Campus Wooded Areas Comm. protest public swimming beach development on Picnic Pt. "since we, in theory at least, have responsibility for Picnic Pt."
- Oct. 22, 1962-Campus Wooded Areas Comm.-Recommended that Eagle Heights Woods be attached to the Arboretum.
- Dec. 19, 1962-A.W. Peterson in a memo to the Campus Planning Committee suggests for their consideration specific assignments of responsibility for "Arboretum and related Areas" and "Wooded Areas" on campus.
- Jan. 29, 1963-Campus Planning Committee-Committee accepts in principle A.W. Peterson's suggestions for campus areas responsibility but with instructions that the Wooded Areas and Arboretum Committees be asked to study the report and submit recommendations to CPC before final action is taken.
- Feb. 7, 1963-Letter to Grant Cottam from Alden White-Asks Cottam as chairman of both the Arboretum Committee and the Wooded Areas Committee to bring the CPC's request for a report to both committees.
- Feb. 21, 1963-Arboretum Committee-"After a rather extended discussion the Wooded Areas Committee approved the assignment of the following areas to the control of the Arboretum Committee: Bascom Woods, University Bay, parts of Picnic Point, Eagle Heights Woods, and the woods on the shoulder of second point--to be clearly defined on a map."
"Dicke moved, and it was seconded, that the Arboretum Committee accept responsibility for the areas mentioned, provided they are assigned to the Arboretum Committee by the University administration and that appropriate budgets for their maintenance are made available to us. Passed."
- Feb. 25, 1963-Letter from Grant Cottam to Alden White, Secy. of Faculty-Transmitting recommendations of Wooded Areas Committee and Arboretum Committee to the CPC.
- Feb. 26, 1963-CPC-Response of Wooded Areas Committee and Arboretum Committee discussed. Some concern expressed about keeping Bascom Woods and Eagle Heights as strictly natural areas. Dean Wendt instructed the Planning Division to work with Wooded Areas and Arboretum Committees on the proposal and maps, particularly with respect to Bascom Woods and the Picnic Point beach area and report at the next meeting.
- Feb. 27, 1963-Letter from Grant Cottam to Kurt Wendt, Chair of CPC-Cottam expresses his opinion that the CPC consult with the Wooded Areas Committee before doing anything with Bascom Woods.
- Mar. 11, 1963-Arb. Comm.-discussion of the proposal that the Arboretum take over and supervise several campus wooded areas as outlined in the minutes of the Feb 21, 1963 meeting. Maps presented by Cottam accepted. (maps not found)
- Mar. 19, 1963-CPC-the committee considered Wooded Areas Committee and Arboretum Committee reply to Mr. Peterson's Memorandum. Mr. Dyckman was asked to get copies of the wooded areas maps prepared by Mr. Cottam for discussion at the next meeting.

- Mar. 26, 1963-CPC-Peterson's Dec. 12, 1963 memo, and Cottam's letter of Feb. 25, 1963 and maps showing the suggested transfers of responsibility for various campus areas from Wooded Areas Committee to the Arboretum Committee were discussed. Several members of the CPC were unwilling to remove these areas from CPC responsibility. Mr. Dykman was instructed to consult further, for report at the next meeting.
- Note: in further review of Campus Planning Committee minutes, no further mention of this issue was found and no formal action was taken by the Committee.
- October 29, 1963-CPC-It was moved and voted to recommend to the President "That John Muir Park shall be maintained by the Department of Physical Plant with the advise and counsel of the Chairman of the Wooded Areas Committee and the University Landscape Architect."
- Nov. 18, 1963-Letter from A.F. Ahern, Dir. of Physical Plant to Grant Cottam, Richard Tipple and D.L. Anderson-outlined the intent of the Physical Plant to implement desired improvements to Muir Woods in accord with the wishes of those interested in the areas biological virtues. It also implies that Physical Plant is wholly responsible for the area.
- Mar. 4, 1964-Arb. Committee-discussion as to whether the Arboretum Committee should seek to relinquish control of Picnic Point area in view of projected developments. No conclusion was reached
- May 6, 1964-Arb. Committee-"Cottam stated that the Arboretum Committee is now free of further responsibility for administrative decisions affecting Picnic Point and after July 1st will have no further financial responsibility. He has indicated however that we still maintain an interest in the welfare of the woods on Second Point and in the University Bay area.
- Dec. 2, 1964-Arb. Committee-"Cottam pointed out that there is at this time no agency of the University charged with protecting the interests of biologists in relation to such natural or semi-natural areas as still remain on the campus, including Bascom Woods, the area west of Elizabeth Waters Hall, University Bay, the woods at Second Point, and Eagle Heights Woods."
- Nov. 16, 1966-Arb. Committee-Recommendations of Campus Biological Areas Committee reviewed. Concern expressed that if the Arboretum Committee is granted jurisdiction over additional areas, a management or operating budget should accompany such an agreement.
- Jan. 14, 1967-report of the Campus Biological Areas Committee of the Graduate Biological Division-Outlines suggested jurisdictional responsibility for campus natural areas. This document is explicit about the subdivision of campus lands and who is to be responsible for them. Maps are attached.
- Mar. 3, 1967-Campus Planning Committee-action taken to accept the report of Jan. 14, 1967 of the Campus Biological Areas Committee as policy.