

Priorities for Near Term Ecological Management in Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Approved by the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee October 26, 2010. Drafted by the Planning and Implementation Subcommittee (Ann Burgess, Catherine Bruner, Glenda Denniston, Rhonda James, Susan Will-Wolf, chair)

One of the Planning and Implementation Subcommittee's tasks is to recommend priorities for management. Our main focus in preparing this document is on practical ecological management projects that are either in progress with current resources (staff, volunteers, university teaching/research partners, modest outside funding), or could be considered with similar additional resources.

The subcommittee focused on 13 high priority Preserve areas, and ranked them by their need for attention. Starred areas have written plans and most have funded ecological management in progress. We highlight other areas that need **new planning efforts**. Planning for management of these areas in the near term is possible with in-house expertise plus modest additional funding. Such focus can foster solicitation of funds to support development of a written plan and new management for an area. All current support for ecological management is focused on maintenance of current projects.

We did not consider **shoreline erosion** as we evaluated priority for the areas below. Managing shoreline erosion requires its own techniques, the issues are often distinct from those for adjacent land, and ecological management is only one part of this ongoing task.

Criteria for setting priorities for attention:

1. Is there an existing high quality community on the site?
2. Is the area imminently threatened? (e.g., invasive species, overuse)
3. Have previous restoration/management efforts occurred that need continued maintenance?
4. Are there erosion issues that need to be addressed?
5. Are there Native American Cultural Resources that are in danger of degradation?
6. Is the area used for classes or other education; is the use threatened by lack of planning or management?

Management units are listed in descending order of priority for attention. Evaluation of each area also considered adjacent Lakeshore Path where relevant. With all else equal, an area with a written plan and management project has higher priority.

Management units with asterisks have a written plan; for most a project is being implemented and management is proceeding with occasional overview by the Preserve committee.

Management units in bold need **new planning efforts** soon, to support expanded and improved ecological management.

1. **Muir Woods (targeted funding)
2. **Eagle Heights Woods**
3. **Biocore Prairie (class project and some targeted funding)
4. **Frautschi Point** (some targeted funding)
5. **Bill's Woods** (the east third of Bill's Woods already has a written plan)
6. **Willow Creek Woods (targeted funding)
7. ** Class of 1918 Marsh (plan in Master Plan appendix; major and very expensive but currently not funded hydrology issues must be dealt with before an ecological management effort is feasible.)
8. **Picnic Point Woods – Center (has mounds)**
9. **Big Woods**
10. **Second Point Woods**
11. **Tent Colony Woods (targeted funding)
12. **Picnic Point Woods – West (ridge just E of entrance)**
13. **Caretaker's Woods**