



University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – November 17, 2017

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Gary Brown, Director

As we begin looking ahead to the 2018 annual budget and work plan development, Preserve staff and I are starting to discuss moving ahead with a strategic planning process for the Preserve. We are currently reviewing the scope, schedule and budget for that initiative and hope to gain approval from our new Associate Vice Chancellor, David Darling, for this to be a priority for FP&M along with his many other initiatives to improve services to the overall campus. So far, David is supportive of the strategic planning process but it does need to be coordinated with other strategic planning initiatives in FP&M and with campus leadership. Once a strategic direction is established, we will then begin the task of updating our existing facilities and land management master plan for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We will share more details of this important planning process as we work through the funding and approval process.

We had a nice turnout for our initial stakeholder meeting (all committee members are encouraged to participate) on October 11. These meetings are important for us to share our recent accomplishments and gain insight into important issues that should be discussed as we develop our upcoming annual budget and work plan. Thanks to all who have participated to date.

**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

**Permits since September meeting:**

- 2017-53 – ECOL 460 – Survey of bark foraging birds
- 2017-52 – ECOL 460 – Higgins – Predation threat on foraging behavior of small mammals
- 2017-51 – ECOL 460 – Wenslaff – Insect density in forested and non-forested areas
- 2017-50 – ECOL 460 – Keller – Mapping acorn dispersal distributions of *Sciuridae*
- 2017-49 – FWE 599 – Hammerer - Effects of humans on health and life history of *Procyon lotor*
- 2017-48 – BTNY 460 – Thrun – Water quality assessment of marshes in Madison
- 2017-47 – ECOL 460 – DePorter – Understanding the synanthropic behavior of eastern gray squirrel
- 2017-46 – BTNY 460 – Have nature reserves limited soil contamination when compared to urban soils?
- 2017-45 – BTNY 460 – Resende – Effect of land use on water quality in Madison Lakes
- 2017-44 – ZOO 460 – Spiegelhoff – Determining alpha and beta diversity in UW Madison
- 2017-43 – ECOL 460 – Pye – Effect of earthworms on soil nutrient levels
- 2017-42 – BTNY 460 – McAdow – Effect of vegetation on the water retention of the soil
- 2017-41 – Webb – Outdoor UW photo shoot

Preserve staff are in the midst of drafting the 2018 work plan and annual budgets by reviewing the past growing season and projecting ahead to 2018. Input from the October stakeholder meeting and project proposals will be consideration during our annual planning processes.

The Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA) continue to provide support through their “Lunch and Learn” program that highlighted information on organizational direction and a support program regarding changes in managing donor database information. We appreciate having WFAA as a part of the Preserve support team.

In the spirit of supporting efficient communications, Ellen Agnew, Building & Grounds Superintendent of UW Environmental Services, and I met over lunch to discuss Preserve land management strategies. UW Environmental Services is an important Preserve partner which provided more than \$100,000 worth of in-kind services to the Preserve

during the 2016-17 budget year. We were able to discuss such a wide assortment of topics, we have decided to meet monthly. Our next meeting will focus on safety.

#### **Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:**

- The Gymnasium/Natorium Replacement Feasibility Study is currently underway. FP&M staff will share the developing plans with the committee in the future.
- Nielson Tennis Stadium – Athletics is planning for expansion of the outdoor tennis courts from 6 to 8 and the addition of spectator seating.
- Lot 129/130 consolidation – the feasibility study to determine options/scope/budget is complete and a consultant is being hired to design and complete construction documents. Plans will be shared with the committee as they are developed.
- City of Madison Water Utility Addition at Well 19 – filtering Building, currently scheduled for construction in 2019. Preserve staff will share the draft plans when available next spring.

#### **Capital Projects within the Preserve:**

- Raymer's Cove Sign – will be added late this fall.
- Weed pile improvements at Eagle Heights Gardens – grading and concrete pad work is underway.
- Student Memorial on the north edge of Gard Circle – a memorial to students who have passed away during the school year is being placed near the Gard Circle. The memorial includes a plaque on a stone with a simple message. No names are included so it can be used each year in May for a gathering of campus staff and families. Planning to install late this fall.
- The White Memorial Bench was installed to the east of fire circle 2.
- The Murray Memorial Bench was installed in Muir Woods with a view to the lake.

#### **LAND MANAGEMENT** - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Good Oak Ecological Services:
  - a. Willow Creek Savanna – Treated any remaining weeds showing signs of growth in southeast project area in prep for dormant seeding.
  - b. Picnic Point – Treated buckthorn resprouts in sections (totaling about a ½-acre) where dense buckthorn regrowth was mowed late summer.
  - c. Frautschi Point -Treated buckthorn resprouts in 1-acre section north of water utility compound where dense buckthorn regrowth was mowed late summer.
  - d. Eagle Heights Woods – Continued follow-up control efforts of undesirable woody regrowth in Central and South Zones. Began to coordinate plans and schedule initial invasive brush removal in the West Zone for winter 2017-18.
- Planning prescribed burns for the fall season. Potential units include a portion of Eagle Heights Woods, Biocore Prairie, Lot 60 and University Bay Drive bioswales, and the Willow Creek Savanna project area.
- Picnic Point – Initiated cut-stem treatments to buckthorn regrowth surrounding brush-mowed areas at head of the Point, working west from Ebling Circle.
- Bill's Woods – treated large swath of first-year garlic mustard.

#### **OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS** – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

- Our recent drop-in and other volunteer events included:
  - Wednesday, Oct 18, GreenHouse Learning Communittee, Cut buckthorn at Willow Beach, 10 volunteers
  - Saturday, Oct 21, Drop-in, Collect seeds and cut buckthorn at Biocore Prairie, 17 volunteers
  - Tuesday, Oct 24, "Badgers, Business and Beyond", Cut buckthorn in Bill's Woods, 9 volunteers
  - 3 events were canceled due to weather

- On Oct 13, Preserve staff hosted a lunch and walk in Eagle Heights Woods for our on-going volunteers
- We sent out a call for volunteers to expand our on-going volunteer corps. Our on-going volunteers go through a formal training session and are assigned to specific tasks. In particular, we are looking for additional trail monitors and people with native plant gardening experience to adopt some of our entrance plantings. Training will be held in early 2018.
- Our website is being moved to WordPress. You should not notice many if any changes. However if you are on the website and find something not working please let us know so that we can address it.
- The Fall E-Newsletter went out this week. You should have all received a link by email.