



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – February 7, 2019

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

I am happy to report that we are in the final process of engaging UW-Madison's Office of Strategic Consulting to assist in our development of a strategic plan for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. It is important to remember that this strategic planning process is a broad statement and guide for the on-going management of the Preserve. It is not a land management plan, ecological restoration plan, or a long range facilities plan which will come later after the strategic planning process is complete in late 2019 as an update to the 2006 Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan.

The strategic planning process includes some of the following draft goals:

1. Review and update as necessary the 2006 Mission, Vision, Core Values and Guiding Principles for the Preserve.
2. Provide a strategic direction to guide the use and management of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve over the next 10+ years.
3. Develop and facilitate public stakeholder engagement processes that allows for the collection of ideas, information and data needed to develop the strategic plan.
4. Focus the strategic planning process on desired impacts and how to obtain those impacts in the coming years moving forward.
5. Develop a written strategic plan that defines actionable items for moving the strategic plan forward and gaining approval and support from university leadership.

We also continue to work on our upcoming operating budget and the university continues to support funding for Preserve staff and the contributed services from various Facilities Planning & Management organizations. We are thankful the university leadership understands the important of maintaining this 300-acre outdoor laboratory and continues to provide funding for long term care.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

While the Preserve landscape is blanketed in snow and projects a sense of serenity and reflection, Preserve staff remains busy with work planning and budget development for the upcoming year, strategic planning and land management.

Winter is the season for examination and mitigation of potential Preserve tree hazards positioned adjacent to roadways and primary pedestrian paths. A visual survey of trees was conducted by Ellen Agnew (Building & Grounds Superintendent), Jennifer Kolste (Associate Building & Grounds Supervisor) and myself where hazards and work priorities were identified. Grounds staff will perform identified work as it fits within their responsibility to address weather related needs. We are fortunate to have the on-going partnership and support of the Grounds staff. We welcome Jennifer to her new position.

The management of the UW-Madison campus is guided by the statues and policies set by the Board of Regents and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is charged with the responsibility to review and authorize use of the Preserve. Recent litigation involving several Universities have resulted in renewed attention and policy changes to UW-Madison campus programming and facility use, especially in regards to risk management. Bryn Scriver and myself are attending meetings and working with representatives of the Precollege program and Risk Management to understand changes.

The Preserve is engaged in several initiatives to engage untraditional student audiences in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. We thank Lillian Tong (emeritus faculty and Friends Board member) for arranging a meeting of Bryn Scriver and myself with Assistant CALS Dean Thomas Browne to discuss how we can work together.

We are in the process of hiring an additional full-time natural resource technician and a temporary-seasonal employment position-invasive species specialist (the result of a four-year donor-directed gift). In addition to these two positions, we will also be hiring a student hourly position to assist with invasive species removal (mainly garlic mustard) and a student intern for the summer. Please see me regarding position announcements and application deadlines.

Each fall we reach out to our friends and stakeholders with an annual appeal in support of the Preserve. Gift funds support approximately 30% of the general management costs of the Preserve. That is in addition to private gifts that cover specified capital project expenses. Based on our previous/current budgets, the Preserve needs approximately \$70,000 in gift funds each year to sustain our on-going financial position. The Preserve received 41 individual gifts during our fall/winter 2018-2019 campaign raising \$ 43,325 for the stewardship fund, and \$ 1,665 for the endowment fund. It is still not too late to give. A gift to the Preserve is an excellent way to celebrate or memorialize special events and people . . .while being totally tax deductible. All gifts to the Preserve are also considered gifts to UW-Madison.

Permits since November meeting:

- 2019-6 – ENVST600 – Keuser - Birding
- 2019-5 – ECOL460 – Picnic Point Bird Survey
- 2019-4 - Outdoor UW – Leave No Trace training
- 2019-3 – FEW 410 – Sarah Hart - Forestry
- 2019-2 – Outdoor UW – NOLS Wilderness First Responder Course
- 2019-1 – Plt Path 332- Marie Trest – Class on Fungi

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- MG&E is working to place the existing overhead power lines underground along Lake Mendota Drive at the Eagle Heights Gardens. The poles will remain, at a shorter height, because overhead AT&T lines will be remaining on the poles.
- We are working on a replacement sign at Frautschi Point similar to the one at Raymer's Cove.
- We are also working on creating a low profile crossing of the bottom of the gully in Frautschi Point Woods.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Eagle Heights Woods:
 - a. Good Oak Ecological Services has completed invasive brush removal along the western portion of the north slope (~2 acres). Given the steep terrain, work progressed more slowly than previous efforts in other portions of the woods. The remaining brush removal on the north slope will be wrapped into fall/winter 2019-20 plans.
 - b. As conditions allow, we still plan to work with Wolfe Tree Service to remove hazard tree debris from the vicinity of the Indian mounds group, connecting views across the mounds and improving prescribed fire implementation efficiency.
- Lake Mendota Dr. /Eagle Heights Gardens utility right-of-way – we have treated discernible stumps in forestry-mowed swath from the gardens entrance to the water utility.
- East Savanna Field – Staff along with Preserve volunteer Steve Sentoff treated an expanding sumac clone and removed invasive brush along the northern edge of the old field at the base of Picnic Point. The area will be seeded with Biocore prairie seed collected in 2018.

- Staff and Preserve volunteer Steve Sentoff performed invasive brush control across the Willow Creek Savanna site.
- We have sowed seed across portions of the Lot 60 prairie, University Bay Drive swale, Raymer's Cove prairie, and Heritage Oak site. Additional seeding still to come at Willow Creek savanna, portions of Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, east savanna field, and Biocore prairie overlook.
- Biocore prairie overlook – performed invasive brush and selective tree removals to open views of Lake Mendota from the trail in the northeast corner of Biocore prairie.
- Planning 2019 fieldwork implementation.
- Collaborating with UW Arboretum on an application for an AmeriCorps NCCC crew, which would work in the Preserve in June 2019, if approved.
- Planning spring 2019 prescribed burn units. Will serve as a potential site for student volunteers from LA375 to participate on burns, as required by the course.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Outreach Specialist

Outreach activities:

- Ongoing updates and posts to website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Monthly submission to the University Apartments newsletter
- Saturday Science at WID Also Leopold Day (Sat Jan 5 10-noon); Prairie Seed Balls; contact with over 300 kids and adults
- Submitted poster presentation proposal for UW Teaching and Learning Symposium

Volunteer activities:

- Spring Public Service Fair Jan 30, 3-6pm (cancelled due to cold, reschedule?)
- Met with Design Team for *Land Managers who work with Volunteers*—to plan future events (site visits and networking event)
- Inventoried and ordered volunteer gloves and first aid supplies

Our recent drop-in and other volunteer events included:

- Sun. Dec. 2; Drop-in, buckthorn removal Frautschi Point Woods; 13 volunteers