



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – May 13, 2020

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

It continues to be an interesting time this spring and now as we close the semester virtually (in many ways) on-line. You'll be pleased to see we have been working hard with Sara Hotchkiss and other committee members to further the Strategic Plan document for your review. We'll review the latest draft and keep making headway toward completion.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting:

- 2020- 10 – Madison Audubon Society -tours/walks

Staff is working remotely with permission to make occasional visits (2x weekly) to accommodate safety checks of the Preserve, since it is a site for approved "essential activity".

We continue to be concerned about the impact that delayed or cancelled land management practices will have on the land and current management. Lost inputs could include (3/15 through 9/1) -3,290 hours of staff time, 2,680 hours of seasonal staff, and 1,500 hours of volunteer time... we can't imagine the breath of impact within the Preserve. One advantage to a small staff is we are very creative and nimble in thinking and have composed several land management proposals (shared later in update) that have been approved by FPM administration.

There is an effort to have Preserve staff designated as "essential" which would permit us to be on the land for more than safety checks and we are also working on a proposal for hiring a temporary employee on a 20-hour/week bases; this would be possible only because it is totally gift fund supported.

Using a template and process composed by Karen Oberhauser at UW Arboretum, we have a process where approved permit holders can apply to gain access to continue their research within the Preserve with their department permission and if they are following UW Covid-19 guidelines.

Day of the Badger appears to still be plan for 2020, the University Foundation and Alumni Association is still examining the timing and look at deciding by mid-May. . .staytuned!

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium Replacement design continues. Building removal will begin likely later in the fall. To facilitate Rec/Well's on-going operations this project has prompted a temporary shed (40'x 70') at the handball wall, north of the Class of 1918 Marsh. This building will be removed when the Gym/Nat building is completed.
- Vet Med expansion design continues and will start construction likely in spring 2021.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- The arbor at Eagle Heights Gardens is to be removed due to deteriorating posts. They plan to re-imagine the gathering area in the coming year.
- At University Houses Gardens, the gardeners have requested a gravel access drive to the weed pile and 4 plots beyond. We are investigating the possibilities of this request.
- Stonework around the fire pit at Ebling Circle will hopefully be repaired this summer. We have a contractor preparing a quote for the work.
- The stonework at the edge of the steps at the lower viewing area at the end of Picnic Point will also be done this summer. We have a contractor preparing a quote for this work.
- A new memorial bench will be added in the area of the old bath house, hopefully yet this spring 2020, by the UW Mason Shop which are working on a limited schedule right now.

Maintenance Projects (this spring/summer/fall):

- Gravel widening inside the entrance to Picnic Point will be done to give more space to turning service vehicles such as the trash & recycling and UWPD vehicles.
- Various erosion spots along the Lakeshore Path will also be addressed this spring/summer.
- Water bars will be installed in Eagle Heights Woods on southwest path to Shady Lane to prevent continued erosion problems.

Note: due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Grounds staff are only responding to health-safety risk management issues on campus and are just beginning to come back to campus this week for the first spring mowing and planting season. This may require some of the above projects to be deferred until spring/summer 2021.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Picnic Point maintenance.
- Trail monitoring/maintenance Preserve-wide.
- Coordinated with University Housing staff and Good Oak Ecological Services to perform an herbicide application (funded by WDNR) to fig buttercup on University apartments property, adjacent to the Preserve. No fig buttercup detected in adjacent Eagle Heights Woods.
- Good Oak Ecological Services herbicide application to garlic mustard in the west unit of Bill’s Woods.
- Manual GM by volunteers and staff Preserve-wide, focusing first on high-priority project areas. Details in volunteer report.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Preserve Spring Newsletter posted and emailed
- Working on 2019 Annual Report
- Refining email contact lists
- Social media posts (Earth Day and Arbor Day)
- University Apartments newsletter article for May (spring wildflowers)

Volunteer activities:

- Staff proposal to allow select volunteers to pull garlic mustard was approved. Twelve people responded and have been assigned to work areas. Volunteers had to sign a new liability waiver with COVID-19 language. Supervision is done remotely by text message, email, and phone. Volunteers supply their own gloves, bags, and tools.
