



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – June 25, 2020

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Hi all... from my now well-established home office overlooking the Pheasant Branch Conservancy, a block to the east. It is strange not being on campus, but I can tell you we all have been working hard to keep the campus operational and moving forward this spring and into the summer months. I, for one, can say I'm actually more productive and busier than ever. We continue to work on the overall university capital budget and Six Year Capital Development Plan for 2021-27 and the important work of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Strategic Plan. The planning process has been excellent, and I think the final product has been worth the extra effort the committee, the Preserve staff and our stakeholders have provided throughout so we can continue to guide the overall use, management and long-term preservation of the Preserve. As a reminder, the document has been developed with several key audiences in mind. First, the strategic plan provides a guide for Preserve leadership and staff to use as a way to support their important work in the months and year ahead with continuous process improvements and growth of the Preserve as a research, teaching and outreach lab of the university right on campus. Second, the document helps provide a basis for university leadership to understand how the Preserve supports the overall university mission of research, teaching and outreach. It is a tool for justifying the need to set aside almost a third of the campus land area for this mission-based purpose and know that the loss of this land would be detrimental to the long-term viability of the university. Finally, the strategic plan is a way to engage the many stakeholders and financial supporters to leverage their support and overall confidence that we are indeed preserving the Preserve. I look forward to continuing our partnership with the Preserve Committee to approve the Strategic Plan and continue on toward implementation of its key recommendations.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting:

- 2020-12 – GradResearch – Barak – mycorrhizal colonization of burr oaks
- WDNR Bat research project has completed "UW Research Reboot process"

Staff has been authorized as essential and are now able to be on the land/site for not only safety checks of the Preserve, but land management and maintenance activities. Office related work is being completed remotely from home as most staff in FP&M continue to telecommute and reduce the spread of the COVID virus by minimizing the number of people on campus. This arrangement will continue into the fall semester.

Kudos to staff for the following successful project proposals, impacting our ability to care for the land, including:

- Volunteer garlic mustard removal program; we are planning to submit a request to continue utilizing trained, experienced volunteers with continuing invasive removal efforts; all while following Covid-19 CDC guidelines.
- Permission to allow UW approved contractor to continue with proposed/budgeted invasive species treatments (supported by gift funds).
- Permission to allow permitted research projects to continue (phase 0); this was completed before the "Research Reboot" was enacted.
- Recognition of Preserve staff as "essential" which allows Preserve staff to work on the land.
- Current request-waiting for response - request to hire two temporary, seasonal staff members (supported by gift funds).

The Preserve is partnering with UW Transportation to purchase/operate a mobile multi pedestrian/cyclist counter/unit to track visitor usage within the Preserve. The unit manufactured by Eco Counter is mobile and our plan is to move throughout the Preserve to learn more about the numbers of folks visiting different locations within the Preserve, including Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, Raymer's Cove, Eagle Heights Woods and more. We will be using approximately \$5,700 of gift funds to purchase this unit.

Unfortunately, the Day of the Badger 2020 digital fundraising appeal will not be moving forward this year. We are fortunate to have a donor, who had agreed to match all gifts given to a combined total of \$10,000. I will be speaking with the donor to determine how they would like to designate their gift.

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 maintenance equipment 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.
- The Vet Med Addition and Renovation project also continues in design development 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 is contracted for repair later this summer.
- 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.
- A new memorial bench will be added in the area of the old bath house soon by the UW Mason Shop and this project is ongoing.
- A new gravel for the path was installed at the entrance to Picnic Point earlier this spring.
- A few areas of erosion along the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path have been repaired by Grounds.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach Field Projects Coordinator

- Garlic mustard control – Volunteer pulling/bagging in multiple locations (see Bryn's report). Herbicide application to large GM swath across 2 acres at north end of Bill's Woods. Mowed/cut GM and other weedy species across 8 acres from the old orchard through east savanna field and surrounding woodland edges. Hauled away dumpster-loads of GM bags from staff/volunteer pulling efforts.
- Performed project area site assessments at Willow Creek Savanna, Frautschi Point (2nd oak), East savanna, and Bill's Woods and Picnic Point.
- Contract bid process has been finalized. Applied Ecological Services awarded the primary contract. Good Oak Ecological Services awarded as secondary.
- Good Oak Ecological Services performed herbicide applications to reed canary grass, Canada thistle and leafy spurge in Willow Creek Savanna, Lot 60 swale, and east savanna field.
- Mowed paths and common areas around Biocore prairie, the kiln site, and Frautschi field edge.
- Eagle Heights Woods - Disassembled branch structures in mounds zone.

Please see attachment regarding 2020 maintenance priorities.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Annual Report
- Social media post
- University Apartments newsletter article for June (gray tree frogs)

Garlic mustard volunteer report *as of 6-14-20*:

- Twenty-two volunteers
- Covered approximately 90 acres
- More than 415 hours

Please see attachment regarding garlic mustard volunteer project.