



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – October 16, 2020

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

As we continue in our pandemic journey, we enter into our seventh month of working remotely and coming to campus as needed to manage the land and assure public health and safety are maintained. I want to thank the Preserve staff and the many volunteer stewards who have helped us do so over the spring, summer and not into the fall by meeting the increased demand for wellness and respite so many people have longed for in their visits to the Preserve. We expect this to continue until winter sets in and we have a chance to support winter use of the Preserve.

With potential operating budget reductions in our near future, we continue to advocate for the Preserve and its amazing resources. We likely will hear details of those reductions in the next month which will then be implemented starting in January 2021. We could see overall reductions of 5 to 10% in what could also be a first round of cuts. This is not new to our budgeting process and I expect we'll continue to weather this storm.

With the completion of our Strategic Plan and now into implementation, I look forward to working with the committee members on our new communications plan and the upcoming Master Plan update process, both of which help document and spread the word of all the great things happening in the Preserve. Please watch for upcoming information and opportunities to participate in these important activities.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permit issued since our last meeting on September 25, 2020:

- 2020-22 – Ecol 460-Observational Study of Species Richness

Fall is not only a time for reflection but also looking ahead and planning for the upcoming year through planning of our 2021 work plan and budget. We hosted a stakeholders meeting in late September which was attended by 6 guests. Staff will be meeting to compose a plan and budget which will take into consider this unique year and how best to rebound. In addition, we are addressing the strategic plan priorities, with communications up to the plate first. As we meet with FP&M Communication staff, we will be sharing information with the Preserve Committee.

Be on the lookout for pending information to be released on October 21 -23, the Preserve will participate with the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association in the "Fill the Hill" fundraiser. This is the annual fall event where donations are recognized with pink flamingos placed on Bascom Hill. This is a first for the Preserve. The Preserve will be joining more than 100 other UW entities in accepting donations during this fundraising event.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium Replacement Project design is nearly complete. The building removal will begin soon, site clearing work began earlier in September. To facilitate Rec/Well's on-going operations, this project has constructed a temporary shed (40'x 70') at the existing bounding wall north of the Class of 1918 Marsh. This temporary building will be removed when the Gym/Nat building is completed in Fall 2022 or early 2023.
- Vet Med expansion design is nearly complete and will start construction likely in spring 2021.

- A Landscape Master Plan for the Willow Creek area has begun. The creek and approximately 20 feet on both sides will be studied for crossings, use and revegetation along with potential redevelopment in the adjoining areas west of the creek

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Nothing currently active.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Eagle Heights Woods:
 - a. Suzy Will-Wolf has finished data entry from 2020 vegetation surveys in the Mounds Zone.
 - b. Applied Ecological Services staff completed additional buckthorn resprout control on the north slope.
- Frautschi Point - volunteer stewards continue to remove regrowth of invasive brush in areas cleared in previous years along the shoreline units and a swath along big oak trail to the water utility field. We have pruned along the driveway to allow Grounds Dept. chipper truck access around the triangle to dispose of brush piles.
- Preserve staff continue porcelain berry monitoring and control work, focusing on areas where the vine has been most prevalent in recent years. To date, approximately 12 acres have been covered across Bill’s Woods and the base of Picnic Pont.
- Picnic Point – brush mowed and removed larger brush to open access along the beach trail. Performed additional brush mowing in areas with dense buckthorn regrowth at base of Picnic Point to open access for management activities.
- Routine site maintenance and removal of downed trees from trails.
- As time allows, we’ve interspersed some seed collection to supplement ongoing projects areas.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- University Apartments newsletter article for Oct (Audio Trail)
- Updated information in kiosks
- Updated website news section and photo carrousel
- Replace hours/no fires signs Picnic Point fire circles
- Working on Fall E-Newsletter
- 1st meeting with FP&M Communications staff to discuss the Preserve Communications plan

Volunteer activities:

- Volunteer Stewards continue to work in the Preserve under remote supervision
 - 4 volunteers removing invasive plants (Frautschi Point resprouts)
 - 3 volunteers monitoring trails