

35# Future of the Marsh

Like many urban wetlands the health of the Class of 1918 Marsh is threatened by rising lake levels, stormwater runoff, invasive species, silt, and pollutants like salt. But also like many urban wetlands, the Class of 1918 Marsh is extremely hardworking providing educational and recreational opportunities as well as habitat for wildlife. It also plays an important role in flood mitigation and in reducing sediments that would otherwise enter Lake Mendota.

With competing priorities within the 300-acre Lakeshore Nature Preserve and limited resources, the marsh has not had consistent management. Most management has been limited to invasive species control on the edges of the marsh. Improvements to the marsh will require additional study, engineering, collaboration, and funding. However, the vision of a healthy, functioning wetland remains strong and will continue to be considered in future planning.

While the university pays for basic services, gift funds are needed to facilitate Preserve-wide land restoration and management activities. If you would like to support restoration and management activities in the Preserve, donations can be made through the University of Wisconsin Foundation.