



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – March 9, 2021



DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

As winter begins to turn to spring and days getting longer, I'm reminded that it was almost a year ago that all of our lives were changed forever due to the pandemic. We now all know how to meet virtually on various platforms. We all know the importance of personal hygiene and wearing a face covering to protect others around you. We know how to order and get necessities delivered in the same day. We also know the 300-acre Lakeshore Nature Preserve continues to be open and available for all campus stakeholders to use for outdoor enjoyment, fresh air and a respite from the complicated and often stressful world around us. The Preserve continues to see increases in use, even in the midst of the winter winds off Lake Mendota and the snow piling up all around us. I'm thankful for the Preserve staff for helping keep the Preserve open, safe and available for use. We are also thankful for the many donors who continue to support us and our important work in managing these 300-acres in perpetuity. Stay warm and well... Spring is on its way!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting in February 2021:

- 2021-7 – INTEGSCI 375 FIG-Pauli-Winter Living
- 2021-6 – FWE375-LEC007-Van Deelen -camera trapping
- 2021-5 – FWE300-Radeloff-measuring trees
- 2021-4 – Geocache – Picnic Point Cache-Beuthling
- 2021-3 – DNR Wisconsin Bat Program-Kaarakka
- 2021-2 – Snapshot Wisconsin – Duch-Latorre
- 2021-1 – GEOcache-Rocky Road-Rece

February has been a month of serious planning for the upcoming season, and networking with Preserve stakeholders and organizations. The Preserve, like many outdoor venues, has been experiencing renewed, new-found and generally increasing interest, especially by those who are realizing just how assessable we are to the campus community. With this resurgence and new awareness also comes numerous enthusiastic ideas regarding how to bring the Preserve closer to more people, often by incorporating additional human-made "attractions." For some, an open field is a place yet to be filled. But for most the open space is what make the Preserve truly special. The updating of the 2006 Master Plan could not be coming at a better time as the UW community, especially administration, in understanding the incredible value in regards to wellness and respite that the Preserve has provided over the past twelve months. As managers we realize the many issues facing this fragile natural area on the edge of urban development with these now increasing demands.

The Day of the Badger is scheduled for April 6 -7. We are fortunate to have the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve presenting a challenge to all potential donors and matching all gifts up to a total of \$4,000. Thank you, Friends! Bryn will be sharing ideas on how we each can share and encourage those around us to support the Preserve.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium deconstruction process is entering a concrete crushing phase so that materials can be reused rather than placing them in a landfill. As significant amount of steel, aluminum and other construction materials are also being recycled and reused to divert them from being considered a waste product. To facilitate Rec/Well's on-going operations this project a temporary shed (40'x 70') has been installed at the handball wall north of the Class of 1918 Marsh. This building will be removed when the Gym/Nat building is completed (2022 or 2023).
- Vet Med expansion design is nearly complete, will bid soon and will start construction likely in late spring 2021.
- A Master Plan for the Willow Creek area has begun and is currently on hold awaiting decisions around the Biotron site.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Garden Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is beginning a long-term plan for the garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and budgeting.
- Preparing the paperwork for hiring a consultant firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Completed brush pile burns at Frautschi Point and the base of Picnic Point.
- With sufficient frost finally in the ground, working to schedule arborist work around burial mounds with UW Grounds Dept. and contractor crews.
- Preserve staff and volunteer stewards continued brush control around the east savanna old field, north end of Bill's Woods and Frautschi Point.
- Sowed seed ahead of snow events in project areas of Frautschi Point, Lot 60, Willow Creek savanna, and the base of Picnic Point.
- Working with contractor crew to address tree removal needs (identified in the Preserve 2020 Work Plan) along the southern edge of Second Point Woods bordering Biocore prairie and adjacent to the Eagle Heights Woods mounds.
- Updating prescribed burn plans for 2021.
- Seasonal staff hiring and onboarding prep for the 2021 field season.
- Completed hiring for Prairie Partners intern crew.
- Routine site maintenance, reporting use issues and mitigating/repairing as needed.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- Ongoing outreach planning for Day of the Badger (April 6-7, 2021)
- Ongoing work with FP&M Marketing and Communications staff on Preserve Communications Plan
- Worked with Friends and UW Biotechnology Center staff on planning for UW Science Expeditions
- Helped plan and facilitate *Restoration Managers who work with Volunteers Gathering* on 2-17-21—15 attendees from 11 organizations

Volunteer activities:

- Ongoing planning for the Friends spring wildflower planting and garlic mustard pull events
- Ongoing remote supervision of Volunteer Stewards

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