



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – October 8, 2021

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

As the trees fully share their fall colors, it's important to continue to recognize the seasons of change all around us. Change is as inevitable as the magnificent fall colors and we staff in FP&M and the Preserve continue to manage change both in how we support the Preserve and our many stakeholders as well as in our work modalities and physical spaces. Preserve staff, along with many of our colleagues in FP&M will be moving our physical offices this fall into existing workspaces on the 6th Floor of 21 N. Park Street. Right now, we are in a transition period as other campus units move out of that space, the work areas prepared for our arrival and our space at 30 N. Mills Street is prepared for our colleagues in Physical Plant to use. We'll keep you posted as to the actual move date and hope to host an upcoming Preserve Committee meeting at 21 N. Park Street after we settle in later this year.

I'm also happy to report that FP&M and the university has been able to weather the pandemic well financially over the past 18 months, so much so that we hope to again request another fulltime staff Natural Resources Technician and additional operating budget dollars to reduce our impact on our endowment and stewardship funds for supporting regular maintenance items in the Preserve. Stay tuned as we learn more about this through the FY23 budgeting process as we head in to early 2022.

Stay well and get out to the Preserve to enjoy the everchanging fall colors!

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

Permits issued since our last meeting on September 17, 2021:

- 2021-38 – Fishing event-DNR & UW Fishing club/team
- 2021-37 – Leaf cutter ant food support-Bacteriology
- 2021-36 – BTNY 455-Vegetation of WI
- 2021-35 – BTNY 405-Dendrology
- 2021-34 – LA363 & L&S 106-Restoration
- 2021-33 – AGRY 370-Grass vegetation observation
- 2021-32 – BTNY 460-Gradient Analysis

The start of a school year is always an exciting, busy time and as we move along the path of living within a pandemic, remaining vigilant to needs for safety, we are emboldened to move forward. Permit requests are picking up and increased student engagement is invigorating to staff.

This is the time of year when we pause to review the past six months and begin to look ahead to the upcoming year. The September 28 stakeholder meeting was an opportunity for staff to be available to discuss and respond to questions. As you review the Work Plan 6-month status report, please don't hesitate to contact staff with questions, comments, or suggestions. Please forward your thoughts to all staff.

We invite individuals and organizations to submit project ideas through our [Project Proposal process](#) which are due November 1, 2021. To best complete the application it is often good to contact me for a preliminary conversation to ensure potential questions are addressed.

In tandem with Work Plan development for the next year, we will also be building our budget for FY23. Plan to see drafts of the future Work Plan and budget in December as we finalize our recommendations in February 2022.

Staff has spent considerable time discussing issues related to the Preserve Master Plan. Conversations have occurred with Rhonda James along with a meeting/Preserve tour with members of the SmithGroup consulting team. Conversations have also begun with individuals with long-term engagement with the Preserve.

- Visitor Counter at Picnic Point path (one location) – January thru August 31 (minus 2.5 weeks in July due to ant related malfunction) = **88,337**

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

The Natatorium project is under construction with a recent groundbreaking ceremony held on Sept. 30, 2021 with announcement of the building name, Bakke Recreation & Wellbeing Center. This major donor family is from the CEO of SubZero/Wolf here in Madison and the facility includes a teaching kitchen, recreation pool and ice rink. Care has been taken through to assure minimal impacts to the Preserve lands to the north and west, especially the Native American burial mounds directly north of the construction site. A sculpture will be included north of the building celebrating the 12 Clans of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

- Vet Med construction continues.
- The temporary Linden Drive Bridge has been installed – a enabling project for the Vet Med project and maintains access for clients of the small and large animal hospitals at Vet Med during construction.
- The Willow Creek Area Master Plan that was presented last month, will be completed this fall.
- An engineering feasibility study for creating a bridge across the lake side of the Limnology Building is nearly complete. This project would accommodate bikes and pedestrians in a safer manner than the path south of the building and through the parking lot.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- Garden Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is working on a long-term plan for the garden areas so they can keep track of needed capital improvements and budgeting for that work.
- SmithGroup is the consultant firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. J Blue will be at the Preserve Committee meeting to share observations to this point and collect committee input as we begin the Master Plan update process.
- The gate repair project at the entrance to Picnic Point project is beginning in September and should be complete by end of December.
- A new memorial bench has been installed at Frautschi Point.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Conducted field tour with Master Plan consultants to discuss issues and opportunities.
- Contractor arborist crews completed hazard ash tree removal along Picnic Point path.
- Put finishing touches on newly installed bench site along Frautschi Point shoreline.
- Porcelain berry monitoring/control work continued across Bill's Woods and the base of Picnic Pont.
- Brush cutting/mowing in sections of Bill's Woods, Willow Creek savanna, Picnic Point, and Frautschi Point in prep for late foliar treatment to new growth.
- Seed collection in progress to sow across management units in need of supplementing this fall.
- Formal native garden maintenance at Frautschi Point entrance, Picnic Point entrance, Ebling circle, and Limnology garden.
- Preserve staff performed routine monitoring and site maintenance to mitigate misuse or hazards to visitors.
- Planning fall prescribed burn priorities.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- 'Summer' newsletter posted and sent out to email list
- Save the date: Preserve will participate in Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association *Fill the Hill* fundraising event <https://uwflamingos.com/pages/home-2185> , 5pm Oct. 28th and end at 6pm Oct. 29th
- Morgridge Public Service Fair, September 20; talked to 33 students about drop-in volunteer opportunities as well as other ways to get involved and enjoy the Preserve (e.g., Audio trail, Water walk video series, iNaturalist, Friends field trips).
- UW Housing Sustain-A-Bash, September 24; Zoe Horns joined UW Arboretum staff (Restoration Work Party Manager and Citizen Science Coordinator) to promote the Preserve. They engaged about 25 students in making prairie seed mix packets to take and sow at home.

Volunteer activities:

- Goodnight Hall (Communication Sciences and Disorders and SeaGrant/Water Resources Institute) faculty, staff, and students, Sept 18 at Willow Creek Woods
 - 10 volunteers; collected seed and cut buckthorn along shoreline
- First-Year Interest Group, L&S 106: "Earth Partnership: Indigenous Arts & Sciences" class, Sept 23 at Willow Creek Woods
 - Talked about what the Preserve is, savanna restoration project, cultural resources (mounds and archeological sites).
-16 students, 2 staff, and a visiting author collected beebalm seed, which