



University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – December 17, 2021

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Gary Brown, Director

Thank you all for assisting in the Preserve's Master Plan update kick-off process. We had a good turnout for the first public meeting and are getting lots of great comments on our interactive map. If you haven't already had a chance to do so, please check it out on our website.

We've now all moved out of our offices at 30 N. Mills Street into our new suite on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of 21 N. Park Street. Staff are getting settled into their new workspaces as we continue to work in a hybrid modality with some people back in the office 100% of the time and most working both remotely and in the new office space. After the first of the year, stop by and check out our new space.

This month we'll be reviewing our annual work plan for 2022 (FY23). We deferred the operating and capital budget discussions until our February meeting as a result of our changes to our fiscal year to match the university's (July 1 to June 30). Please watch for our draft budget documents to be released in mid-January 2022 as we approach our second stakeholder meeting on January 25, 2022. This meeting will again be virtual so make sure you check out that link on our website as well.

Have a great holiday season!

**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

**Permits issued since our last meeting on November 10, 2021:**

- 2021-55 – Environmental film-HIS 125

There is a sense of calm that covers the Preserve at this time of year with leaves on the ground exposing stark tree silhouettes accompanied by the rustling sounds of small mammals and birds throughout the landscape. Oh, a light dusting of snow and the first appearance of ice on the lake. . .I do think this is my favorite season. I especially enjoy the trails along the lake from Frautschi Point to Raymers's Cove. Please make time for a visit.

Staff has been busy with season ending tasks including collecting and processing seed, prescribed burns, land restoration, and planning for the next season or two. The first draft of the work plan for FY2023 is ready for your review. With the move to align our budget year with that of UW; our draft budget will be shared in January.

This is also the time of year to pause and give thanks for all our stakeholders and friends. Bryn Scriver crafted a beautiful Thanksgiving card featuring a photo from the Preserve to share as our collective appreciation to the many folks who are part of the Preserve. We thank you for the investment of time you make as part of the Preserve Committee.

Another tradition we continued is sharing the Annual Report with a letter of thanks to donors. It was an exhausting endeavor this year. . .which is a good thing! An initial tally of gifts (11/1/20 to 11/1/21) shows **265** gifts totaling **\$294,438**. Last year we received **126** gifts totaling **\$113,120**. This critical financial support has enabled the Preserve to purchase a visitor counter, a new Kubota to safely transport Preserve staff across campus, internships, and a lot more. THANK YOU to all.

In addition, we moved. . .you can find us at our new home offices at 21 N Park, 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

- Visitor Counter Data at Picnic Point path (one location) – November 1 thru November 30, 2021 = **10,189**

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS** - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

#### **Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:**

- The Natatorium project is under well in construction and is close to topping out the building. It's really beginning to take shape and you can now see the overwhelming size of the building and impact to the landscape. We look forward to the project being complete in late 2023 and the landscape restored around this new building.
- Vet Med is also well under construction and starting to come out of the ground
- The temporary Linden Drive Bridge has been installed – a facilitating project for the Vet Med project.
- The Willow Creek Area Master Plan, previously presented at a Preserve Committee meeting, is intended to be completed by the end of 2021. Watch for a link to the final document on our website.
- A study to create a new bridge across the lake side of the Limnology Building is complete. This project would accommodate bikes and pedestrians in a safer manner than the path south of the building and through the parking lot. This project is being proposed for the 2023-2025 capital budget and we hope the State enumerates in the overall state budget.

#### **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 improvements and budgeting.
- SmithGroup is the consulting firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. We will discuss the project status further in the Master Plan section of today's meeting.
- The gates for the entrance to Picnic Point are being refurbished and will be installed as soon as possible.

### **LAND MANAGEMENT** - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Preserve staff completed woody control in prairie plantings along University Bay Dr swales.
- Preserve staff finished roughly processing the ~55 species of seed collected and ordered additional seed to supplement mixes for various management locations.
- Completed prescribed fire in central Eagle Heights Woods with Quercus Land Stewardship Services and UW Arboretum staff.
- Preserve staff continued brush removal efforts in central Bill's Woods.
- Preserve staff performed routine monitoring and site maintenance to mitigate misuse by and hazards to visitors.

### **OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS** – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

#### **Outreach activities:**

- Development activities:
  - Thanksgiving cards
  - Annual Appeal
  - Other mailings
  - Giving Tuesday
- Advertising ways for stakeholders to engage in Master Plan process
- Promoting Student Engagement Grants
- Reviewing Friends field trip proposals

#### **Volunteer activities:**

- November 13
  - Drop-in volunteer event at Frautschi Point 9AM-Noon
    - 7 volunteers; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle
  - Medlife volunteer event at Frautschi Point
    - 6 volunteers; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle
- November 14 AM and PM events canceled due to high winds
- November 21
  - Drop-in volunteer event at Picnic Point
    - 30 volunteers; cut buckthorn
  - Indonesian Student Association at Picnic Point
    - 8 volunteers; cut buckthorn
- December 2
  - FIG: *Earth Partnership, Indigenous Arts & Sciences: Restoration Education and Stewardship* at Willow Creek Woods
    - 17 staff and students; seed 3 savanna species
- December 4
  - Drop-in volunteer event at Frautschi Point
    - 12 volunteers; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle



Please add a title to this photo so we know who this group is and what they are doing.