



Lakeshore Nature Preserve
FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve FY2023 Work Plan – DRAFT

The following document provides an overview of proposed work in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve facilitated by Facilities Planning & Management staff. The list is not exhaustive but does provide the general scope of proposed activities in the Preserve for the period of **July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**. The initiatives are not listed in order of priority, understanding that Preserve staff will work on the initiatives throughout the year with the ultimate goal to complete as much of the work as possible based on available staff and financial resources. The annual work plan is prepared by Preserve staff and presented to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee for discussion and approval. Major initiatives proposed during the year that are not on this list are considered in the following fiscal year deliberations for inclusion in future work plans. Projects initiated in previous years are a priority for implementation and completion.

1) LAND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Continue to use prescribed fire across a variety of sites and seasons to achieve management objectives and promote diverse natural communities. Continue to recruit individuals with wildland fire training to expand prescribed fire capacity to achieve management objectives.
- **Limnology garden – (Pending additional development) - Perform routine maintenance of native planting bed following install in 2021. Consider adding plugs or seeds if some original plants not successful.**
- Frautschi Point – Monitor the Second Oak project site, control herbaceous weeds and undesirable woody re-sprouts and assess additional tree thinning needs to achieve oak savanna community objectives.
- Second Point Woods – In pursuit of the “Savanna Transition Zone” identified in the 2006 Master Plan, remove undesirable trees along southern border of the woods that are growing into oaks, as well as the utility path along the north side of Biocore prairie.
- Biocore Prairie – Continue to support management of the prairie restoration through prescribed burn planning and implementation, assistance with invasive species control, seed collection, and routine mowing of surrounding paths and gathering spaces.
- Eagle Heights Woods Implementation – Continue control of invasive woody re-sprouts, especially on the north slope, and herbaceous weeds across the site. Perform post-management vegetation surveys in the South Zone. Plan and implement prescribed burns to meet management goals. Identify hazard and undesirable trees for removal. Consider and plan management treatments that promote oak regeneration. Implement phase two of storm water control project for erosion on the Shady Lane trail segment in the SW portion of Eagle Heights Woods.
- Lot 130 – Monitor condition of new plantings in former Lot 129 site and bioswale in center of Lot 130 and communicate management needs to contractor.

- Class of 1953 Central Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue regular maintenance. Monitor and control purple loosestrife population identified in 2017. Remove invasive brush from shoreline to maintain filtered views of the lake and support native plant community.
- Class of 1955 Tent Colony Woods improvements – Continue regular maintenance with volunteer assistance from Roma Lenehan to control weeds along the Lake Mendota Drive corridor.
- Willow Creek Woods savanna restoration – Implement prescribed burn. Continue to manage invasive species and undesirable woody regrowth across entire site. Monitor impacts of UW Natatorium construction on site integrity.
- Monitor and control priority non-native plant species across the Preserve (e.g., porcelain berry, Japanese hedge parsley, Canada thistle, fig buttercup, garlic mustard, buckthorn).
- Continue follow-up management in sites cleared of invasive brush in preceding years (i.e., re-sprout control, herbaceous weed control, and sowing native seed).
- Establish greater diversity of native vegetation through seeding and planting in sites that have been adequately prepared.
- Continue to implement approved management plans and support Preserve Facilities Master Plan implementation. Prioritize areas of the Preserve for the development of future management plans.
- Continue to plan management activities that promote oak regeneration. Identify tree removal priorities and phasing plan. Identify outlets for productive use of wood generated during tree thinning activities. Develop a communication and outreach plan to engage stakeholders.
 - Eagle Heights Woods, Frautschi Point, Bill’s Woods, and Picnic Point
- Complete service agreement with UW Grounds outlining the services/locations routinely provide the Preserve, the approximate value, processes for review, and requests.

2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- Implement volunteer program goals and policies.
- Engage volunteers in meaningful land stewardship activities in support of Preserve goals.
- Manage the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website and social media sites.
- Continue to provide site-based and virtual information through temporary work activity signs, audio trail recordings, newsletter, and website.
- Continue to develop on-going partnerships with organizations and community groups, including the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.
- Assist promotional activities as appropriate for development initiatives.
- Analyze volunteer program to support strategic planning efforts.
- **Implement the communications plan.**

3) SITE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Maintain trails, parking areas, and work with campus partners for user safety and enjoyment of the Preserve.
- Maintain fire circles and stock wood racks (with assistance from UW Grounds Department).
- Remove hazard trees, control erosion, and install safety signs and barriers (with assistance from UW Grounds Department and contractors).
- Monitor, map and conduct response to an increasing number of declining/dying ash trees as a result of emerald ash borer.
- As defined in the Preserve Master Plan, install benches as donations allow, and maintain views through selective vegetation removal.
- Maintain Picnic Point pit toilets (Custodial & Plumbing Departments), continue regular trash collection (Waste and Recycling Department).
- Analyze visitor use data generated through the visitor counter and share with UWPD.

4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Recruit FTE Horticulture/Forestry Specialist in addition to providing orientation and supervision.
- Recruit seasonal and student interns in addition to providing orientation and supervision.
- Continued development of safety operational handbook, and training opportunities.
- Provide support for the Preserve Committee and subcommittees.
- Assist with capital project planning.
- Develop annual budgets and work plans.
- Master Plan Update – Begin implementation of priorities outlined in updated 2022 Preserve Master Plan.
- Provide development opportunities for UW Foundation fundraising, grants, and financial support to continue building the Preserve endowment and stewardship resources. Complete a fundraising and fund development plan in conjunction with the WFAA.
- In support of the Strategic Plan Priorities, continue process improvement initiatives with documentation of internal organizational operations, processes, procedures, and policies. This includes operational, program and land management functions.
- In support of the Strategic Plan priorities, identify partner organizations and establish a framework and implementation plan for engaging partners in work supporting the Preserve mission.
- CALS, FH King, GreenHouse Learning Community, Eagle Heights Community Garden – Continue to support management of agricultural units, ensure adherence to land use policies amid organizational turnover, and coordination among stakeholders including participation in the Garden Oversight Committee.

- Manage permits and collaborate with student life and academic programs to enrich the quality of the resource.
- Update the permit process to assure archaeological sites are protected and permit users are informed of their significance.
- Continue work with Native Nations Working Group on campus to expand support for and recognizing this is the ancestral home of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

5) CAPITAL PROJECT SUPPORT (NOT PRIORITIZED)

- a. Friends sponsorship of Prairie Partners intern crew – Five *Prairie Partners* interns receive educational experiences while assisting Preserve staff with field work 1 day per week during the summer. (continuing project)
- b. Picnic Point fire circle improvements– Review needs and costs for improvements to these areas.
- c. Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan Update – Begin implementation of priorities outlined in updated 2022 Preserve Master Plan.
- d. Prepare a new bench standard compatible with the Preserve setting. The recycled materials for existing bench styles are used up.
- e. Design and install three information panels on the existing kiosks.
- f. Complete install of refurbished Picnic Point gates. Consider potential for electronic controls and operator.
- g. Begin advance planning for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Outreach Center and develop a funding plan to move the project forward.