

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Facilities Planning & Management
Preserve Staff Reports – February 25, 2022

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Brown, Director

Thanks to all for your continued work with us on the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. We appreciate your assistance and look to working on this with you in the coming months. As this is budget season for us all here on campus, I wanted to report that we've made another ask for funding another 100% FTE to assist us our Preserve land management activities. I'm hoping this third time will be the charm and that later this year we can add another full time staff person to our small group of hardworking staff. Also, to note, we will be moving forward with advance planning for the new Preserve Outreach Center in the coming months. Please stay tuned for updates and opportunities to provide input in that process as well.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT – Laura Wyatt, Program Manager

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

- 2022-8 – ECO 460 – Bark Forging Birds
- 2022-7 – ECO 460 -Tree Gradient
- 2022-6 – DPLA FIG 201
- 2022-5 – FWE411-Silviculture
- 2022-4 – Migrating Birds - MAS
- 2022-3 – Beginning Birding - MAS
- 2022-2 – Birding by Ear - MAS
- 2022-1 – Owl Prowl - MAS

Preserve stakeholders have been generous with our year end appeal. **191 gifts totaling \$35,431 have been received at the Wisconsin Foundation for the period 11/1/2021 to 2/1/22.** During this same period, we received \$250,000 for initial planning of the Preserve Outreach Center and funds to create a newly endowed internship for students working at the Preserve.

Be sure to have “Day of the Badger” on your calendar for April 5-6, 2022.

The Preserve will be hiring two temporary/seasonal positions (April -November) and two student spring/summer positions. Please visit our website for additional information and direct potential applicants to this same location.

The Preserve was successful in receiving an additional \$25,000 for strategic ash tree removals from Facilities Planning & Management to our operating budget. These funds will be utilized to hire a contractor to remove declining/dead ash which pose a risk due to their proximity to trails or gathering spots. The funds must be utilized before June 30, 2022. We have asked for an additional \$50,000 for FY23 and will do so again for FY24 and FY25 to keep up with the demand throughout the Preserve to manage our risk and keep our users safe.

A gypsy moth infestation has been identified within the Raymer's Cove/ Tent Colony areas. State pesticide sprays are no longer done in Dane County due to widespread infestation; I am not sure we would even want to spray. Working with DNR entomologists, we are planning to offer opportunities for stakeholders to get involved in assisting in reducing the infestation through egg mass removal and banding. More information will be shared in March Visitor Counter Data at Picnic Point path (one location) – **2021 – \$ 138,831**

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Rhonda James, Senior Landscape Architect

Capital Projects adjacent to the Preserve:

- The Natatorium project is under construction.
- Vet Med is under construction.
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- The Willow Creek Area Master Plan, previously presented, is nearing completion and can be found here: <https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/38le3unbs7p4tzx68uk450rsqj6oegwk>
- A study of creating a 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 into the parking lot. This project is being proposed for the 2023-2025 capital budget.

Capital Projects within the Preserve:

- The Garden Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is working on a long-term plan for their garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and budgeting.
- SmithGroup is the consultant firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. We will discuss further in the Master Plan section of today's meeting.
- The refurbished gates for the entrance to Picnic Point have been installed.
- A memorial bench will be installed in Tent Colony Woods in spring of 2022.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Adam Gundlach, Field Projects Coordinator

- Preserve Master Plan - continued to meet and provide input to SmithGroup consultants regarding initial plan designs.
- Burial sites hazard tree management – coordinating with UW Grounds Dept tree crew to complete removals of hazard trees at the Picnic Point and Willow Drive burial mounds groups.
- Brush pile burns – completed burns of 33 brush piles (generated by staff, intern and volunteer work) across the base of Picnic Point, southeastern Second Point Woods and portions of Frautschi Point Woods.
- Compiled seed mixes and sowed seed across the Eagle Heights Woods unit burned in November, as well as management areas at Frautschi Point, Picnic Point, Lot 60 swale, University Bay Dr swales, Lot 34 basin, east Temin path (Kagle Plots), and Willow Creek savanna.
- Continued brush control efforts in central Bill's Woods and the base of Picnic Point.
- Assessing tree removal opportunities along the southern edge of Second Point Woods to continue to soften the transition between forest edge and Biocore prairie.
- Prairie Partners Internship Program interviews held February 18. Program runs May 23 through August 12, with the crew working in the Preserve Thursdays.
- Planning and preparing for hiring of 2022 seasonal staff.
- Developing Seed Collection Policy document.
- Developing 5-yr plan for continuing management of Eagle Heights Woods.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS – Bryn Scriver, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Outreach activities:

- January issue of Preserve newsletter featuring write ups of SEG recipients
- Promoting Student Engagement Grants (SEG)—March 1 deadline to apply
- Development activities:
 - Day of the Badger planning – April 5-6

- Planning/promoting/recruiting volunteer events; talked to about 2 dozen students at Morgridge Center Public Service Fair
- Planning with Friends for Spring Friends events, and promoting Friends field trips/Bird and Nature Adventures
- City Nature Challenge; Clean Lakes Alliance staff and Board
- Promoting seasonal student and TE positions

Volunteer activities:

- Drop-in schedule set for Spring semester; listed on [Preserve events calendar](#)
- February 12 – Drop-in volunteer event at Picnic Point 9AM-Noon
 - 16 volunteers; cut buckthorn and honeysuckle