

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Facilities Planning & Management  
Preserve Staff Reports – October 19, 2022



Help us celebrate the **10<sup>th</sup> annual Fill the Hill fundraising event** with a gift of support to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Visit [uwflamingos.com](http://uwflamingos.com) anytime between **Thurs. Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. and Fri. Oct. 21 at 5 p.m. to make a gift of any size!** Your gifts enable the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to protect its distinctive natural and cultural features while meeting the teaching, research, and outreach mission of the university.

**FPM ORGANIZATION** - Missy Nergard, Director Office of Sustainability

Happy Fall! There is no place on campus more brilliant than the Lakeshore Nature Preserve in autumn, it is an unequivocal treasure and an unfailing muse. As the seasons change, so do organizations, and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve team and stakeholders are currently experiencing such a transition. Early this summer, prompted by the retirement of Gary Brown, the Preserve moved to the University's Office of Sustainability. There is great synergy between the Preserve and Sustainability, and the current plan is to further develop that alignment and give it time to grow. Laura and her team are continuing to do their amazing work, and the sustainability team is providing support to them, and the current operations as needed. Ultimately, we are looking to develop greater alignment with education, research, and student experience, areas in which Sustainability is well suited to bridge connections and build capacity.

I realize there are questions and uncertainty around the potential for reorganization and the role of a Preserve Director, however there are currently no plans to reorganize or fill the Director role. The leadership at FP&M has agreed to give some time to let the Sustainability/Preserve relationship develop and to see what opportunities can be leveraged with the broader academic, research and student connections available through the University's Sustainability program. I invite the Preserve Team and the Preserve Committee to share your ideas, to be aspirational, and to envision how the Preserve can connect to, and help fulfill, the Wisconsin Idea. Thank you for the work that you have done to ensure that the Preserve is in such a remarkable place today, and I look forward to what we can do together for the future.

**OPERATIONS - PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** – Laura Wyatt, Assistant Director

**Permits issued since our last meeting on May 20, 2022:**

- 2022-48 – BTNY 460 – soil quality and lead
- 2022-47 – BTNY 455 – Norway maples/canopy cover
- 2022-46 – ZOO 302 – insect Collection
- 2022-45 – Allen Centennial Garden – material & seed collection
- 2022-44 – FWE460 – native vs invasive trees
- 2022-43 – BTNY 460 – fungi survey
- 2022-42 – ZOO 460 – maple leaves/pine needles/earthworms
- 2022-41 – ECO 460 – Biocore-species richness
- 2022-40 – ENV ST 600 – Anke -bird watching -Last Child in the Park

- 2022-39 – AGR 370 – grassland study
- 2022-38 – ENTO 302 – insect collection
- 2022-37 – ENG Environmental Studies – Tour with Daniel Einstein
- 2022-36 – ENG 153 – nature observations/writing - Wood
- 2022-35 – Agroecology - sound Exploration - Sullivan
- 2022-34 – BTNY 370 -grassland ecology
- 2022-33 – Geo 930 discussion group – Muir Knoll
- 2022-32 – FWE 561 -Wildlife Techniques - Pauli
- 2022-31 – BTNY 402 - Tree ID - Woodward
- 2022-30 – Lake Forecasting -Clean Lakes Alliance
- 2022-29 – Coleoptera Collection - Young
- 2022-28 – NRF Field Trip – DNR Forest Health

These are exciting times for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. 2022-23 is turning out to be historic and transformational years for the Preserve. Not only is staff engulfed with the day-to-day operation of the 300-acre Preserve, but Preserve staff and stakeholders are busy with the development of a new master plan and the initiation of planning for a building facility/outreach center at the site. Imaging Preserve land management resources located at one location, instead of the current conditions where vehicles and equipment are scattered across campus in five separate locations is euphoric. .just consider the efficiency and impacts!!

In addition, the retirement of Preserve Director, Gary Brown coupled with the reorganization of the Division of Facilities Planning & Management (FPM), which the Preserve is part of, has resulted in opportunities for the Preserve to strengthen alignment with UW-Madison academics. Our recently adopted strategic plan will be helpful as we work together to position the Preserve for the next century.

I am pleased to report that FPM has allocated an additional \$50,000 for the Preserve to utilize in the mitigation of ash trees determined to be hazardous to visitors. After review, questionable trees can be “totemed” which involves removal of the upper canopy with the truck left standing for wildlife OR complete removal.

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

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

- The Natatorium project is under construction.  
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 is under construction.
- A study of creating a bridge across the lake side of 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 budget and is currently being designed.

### **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 consultant firm for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Master Plan. We will discuss further in the Master Plan section of today’s meeting.
- The Kubala Washatko Architects with GRAEF, Design Engineers, Lowe Consulting, Thunderbird Engineering, and Middleton Consulting & Contracting have been hired to complete an advanced Plan for the building – the plan will determine the scope, schedule, and budget of the building project. I will present more details in the update.

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

- Preserve Master Plan – continued to work with consultant to revise plan designs. Met with Advisory Groups to gain feedback on proposed vegetation targets.
- Participated in initial Preserve Center advanced planning focus group meetings.
- Hired four student Natural Areas Assistants to support land management needs during the summer.
- Worked with 2022 Prairie Partners intern crew on Thursdays from late May through early August, and facilitated educational enrichment talks on a variety of topics.
- Boley Tree Service completed hazard ash tree removals in late May at Raymer’s Cove, Big Woods bordering University Apartments, and Picnic Point.
- Following June storms, Preserve staff completed downed and hazard tree clean-up with assistance from UW Grounds Dept. ~35 trees were down on trails from the storms.
- Completed spring and summer vegetation surveys in the South Zone of Eagle Heights Woods with assistance from Suzy Will-Wolf.
- Completed site monitoring walks in multiple project areas to document conditions, progress toward goals, and ongoing management needs.
- Completed invasive species monitoring and control work across the Preserve using NAAs, Prairie Partners interns, and RES, Inc. contractor crews, focusing on garlic mustard, Canada thistle, reed canary grass, crown vetch, porcelain berry and other aggressive species.
- Participated in Temin Lakeshore Path ad-hoc committee evaluating potential pavement and lighting needs along the eastern portion of the path.
- Conducted brush resprout control work in multiple project areas.
- Collected seed to be incorporated into seed mixes for dormant sowing.
- Performed trail maintenance and memorial bench site maintenance.
- New memorial bench installed in west end of Tent Colony, east of Raymer’s Cove.
- Daily Picnic Point fire circle and wood rack maintenance.

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

### Outreach activities:

- Office of Sustainability staff shared Preserve promotional material at summer SOAR sessions
- Welcome Week, Partnered with Morgridge Center for Public Service to provide new and returning students partnered with volunteer engagement opportunity in the Preserve, 9-5-22
- Fall Public Service Fair, promoted Preserve volunteer activities and Friends field trips, 9-15-22
- Sustain-A-Bash, UW Sustainability and UWHousing event to promote sustainability initiatives on campus, promoted Preserve volunteer activities and Friends field trips, seed ball making activity, 9-16-22

### Provided informational tours:

- Preserving the Preserve Bird and Nature Outing; Bryn Scriver, Adam Gundlach and Laura Wyatt; 6-26-22
- Leadership Essentials for New Department Chairs; Tour of Muir Woods; Bryn Scriver; 8-23-22
- Preserve Tour and seed collecting activity for Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor Staff; Bryn Scriver and Adam Gundlach; 10-3-22

Volunteer events since May 20 (does not include volunteer steward hours):

- # Volunteers - 255
- % UW students/staff – 62%
- # Groups - 21
- Groups:
  - Alpha Phi Omega
  - Alternative Breaks
  - Blackhawk Church Madison Missions
  - Clean Lakes Alliance – Foley & Lardner
  - Clean Lakes Alliance – John Deere
  - Clean Lakes Alliance—Yahara Software
  - Exact Sciences
  - Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
  - FWE 110 Living with Wildlife – Animals, Habitats, and Human Interactions
  - Invenra, Inc
  - L&S 106 Earth Partnership, Indigenous Arts, and Sciences: Restoration Education and Stewardship
  - L&S Honors Program
  - LA 363 Earth Partnership: Restoration Education for Equity and Resilience
  - LDS 4<sup>th</sup> Ward
  - Master of Business Administration—Wisconsin School of Business
  - Master of Public Health
  - Medlife
  - Morgridge Center for Public Service – Welcome Week
  - Rotary After Hours
  - Students Today Leaders Forever
  - TDS
  
- # Hours - 626
- Activities – cut/pull invasive plants, clear trails, pick up trash, collect native seeds, plant native plant plugs, weed native plant (entrance) gardens
  
- Volunteer scanned and itemized 99 news clippings and other print materials featuring the Lakeshore Nature Preserve
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Masters of Business Administration volunteers



Masters of Public Health volunteers