



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

UW-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve
FY2024 Work Plan -Draft

The following document provides an overview of proposed work in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve facilitated by Preserve 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, 2023 – June 30, 2024**. 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 review and discussion. 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

- Plan implementation of recommendations from 2022-23 Preserve Master Plan Update. Prioritize areas of the Preserve for development of management plans, including baseline survey of current conditions
- Establish Preserve monitoring program to document current status of plant, animal, and invertebrate communities ahead of planned land management projects. Identify and incorporate academic teaching and research needs, citizen science volunteer opportunities, Preserve staff capacity and contracted service needs.
- Continue to use prescribed fire across a variety of sites and seasons to achieve management objectives and promote diverse natural communities. Continue to recruit volunteers with wildland fire training to expand prescribed fire capacity to achieve management objectives. Provide support to LA581 – Prescribed Fire Ecology & Implementation course.
- Limnology garden – Initiate management to protect garden in response to Limnology Bridge Project.
- Frautschi Point – Monitor the Second Oak project site. Control herbaceous weeds and undesirable woody re-sprouts and assess additional tree thinning needs toward oak savanna community objectives. Continue follow-up control of undesirable woody re-sprouts and herbaceous weeds in areas recently cleared of invasive brush by volunteers. Plan and implement prescribed fires to promote diverse woodland communities.
- Biocore Prairie – Continue to support prairie management 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 West 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.

- Supervise *Prairie Partner* interns; five student workers visiting the Preserve 1-day per week in summer to assist Preserve staff in land management activities. Financially supported by Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.
- Engineered stormwater features – Monitor conditions of plantings at former Lot 129 site and bioswale in center of Lot 130, University Bay Drive swales, Lot 60 Swale, Cogen swales and Lot 34 basin and control weeds as needed.
- Class of 1953 Central Lakeshore Path improvements – Continue regular maintenance. Monitor and control purple loosestrife along shoreline. 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 Bakke Recreation & Wellbeing Center 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., brush 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.
- Complete service agreement with UW Grounds outlining the services/locations routinely provided to the Preserve, the approximate value, processes for review, and requests.

2) OUTREACH AND INFORMATION ACCESS

- During the academic year, focus on recruiting and engaging student volunteers in the Preserve.
- Engage volunteers in meaningful land stewardship activities in support of Preserve goals.
- Continue to develop on-going partnerships with organizations and community groups, including the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.
- Continue to promote the Preserve mission, goals, and activities through temporary work activity signs, audio trail recordings, newsletter, social media, and the website.
- Develop webpages for the Preserve website that tell the story of Preserve land management/land stewardship.
- Assist promotional activities as appropriate for development initiatives.
- Continue implementation of communication plan, including review and redesign of the Preserve newsletter and annual report

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 mitigate hazards arising from 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).
- Relocate equipment gathering data on visitor counts to another location within the Preserve. Continue to analyze visitor use data generated through the visitor counter and share with UWPD.

4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Support reconfiguration of Preserve staffing plan in response to increasing opportunities and the retirement of Gary Brown. This includes recruitment of additional staff.
- 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 – Develop plan with funding considerations for implementation of priorities outlined in updated 2022-23 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. Picnic Point fire circle improvements– Create concept plans for fire circles 4 and 5 and for the relocation of fire circle 1.
- b. Prepare a new bench standard compatible with the Preserve setting. The materials for existing bench styles are exhausted.
- c. Design and install three information panels on the existing kiosks.
- d. Complete advance planning for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Outreach Center and develop a funding plan to move the project forward. When funded move to the design and construction phase.
- e. Regrade Raymer’s Cove Parking utilizing funds from Paul Zedler’s grant project, \$10,000, for improved drainage.