

## **Public Comment: 9-17-15 thru 12-31-15**

48% of project completion: After Public Open House #2 through end of year

Engage Comments:

### **How well do you feel you understand the 12,000 year history of campus?**

**Susan Forrester:** Walking on the right edge of Lakeshore Path -. As a cyclist, pedestrians walking five abreast with their backs toward me is dangerous. As a pedestrian, cyclists approaching from behind don't always announce their presence. Change it so pedestrians walk along the left edge (opposite direction as bikes) so both groups can see each other coming!

### **What specific barriers have you experienced with transit on the UW campus?**

Buses rarely arrive at the stated time, and if I miss a bus I often have to wait about 30 plus minutes for it to come again. Having electronic timetables (such as by the Capitol) would help determine if waiting for the bus is worth it. Bus drivers also take unpredicted breaks, again making buses unreliable. If the Metro could be supplemented with campus circulators several of these issues would be lessened.

Stacking of buses (#80's) throughout the day, they come together, creating much longer lags if you are waiting upstream. They need to stay spaced for the pullouts to function properly and to accommodate their users.

### **How important is it that UW-Madison be a leader in environmental sustainability?**

Darin Harris: Environmental sustainability is becoming more and more mainstream---which is promising. However, in the next 30-50 years humanity will be moving towards generative and restorative models where our activities clean the air, water, and soil as well as improve wellbeing for humans and non-humans alike. For instance, new buildings and communities designing them will begin to ask how they can not only reduce their carbon footprint (sustainable) but take carbon out of the air (restorative). How can this process enable our built vision to reflect this emerging and important mindset?

### **How do you perceive the water quality of Lake Mendota?**

### **If you live off-campus, how do you get to campus?**

### **What do you think of a Memorial Union to Union South circulator?**

Great! As the bus schedules are hardly reliable and frequency remains to be an issue, I am all for supplementing the Metro with such a commuter. I imagine this would be used more to simply get across campus, rather than for students to get from Union to Union. Great implementation idea, especially for cold winter days and dark nights.

## What specific barriers have you experienced walking and biking around campus?

Lance: Bikes around buildings are a barrier to the walking folks like myself. Why do we need to clutter the fronts of buildings with bikes...especially at class change...it is chaos.

A Pedestrian: As a walker, I find many bikes disregard the rules; they are supposed to run as vehicles, but they don't stop at stop signs, most don't signal their turns. Sometimes they run in the road and sometimes on the sidewalk, so walk at your own risk! If you drive, you have to stop for pedestrians, but bikes never yield to a pedestrian! They get the best of both worlds. I have often been at risk of being run over by bikes as a pedestrian in campus.

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### Other Comments:

- Tommy Chitwood 9/17/16: I thought of this after the Master Plan Presentation tonight. I understand you desire to put prairie on Observatory Hill along with a few ponds near the lake. I like the idea but I am concerned about controlling the insect population that will flourish due to these additions. I know from experience from working in a prairie, both short grass and tall grass, the bugs are horrid. It's just a concern I have and I wanted to make sure your team thought of it. Great seeing you again today and take care.
- Mark VanderWoude 9/17/15:
  1. Upgrade Pedestrian Safety when crossing Highland and U-Bay drive.
  2. Attractive Walking Paths with landscape/historical descriptions (and mileage) to encourage healthy behaviors.
  3. Create additional Green Space near buildings for student activities (Frisbee, catch, sunbathing).
  4. Is the site occupied Nielsen Tennis Stadium still the highest and best use of that location?
  5. Try to replicate the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive concept on a driving tour around campus.
  6. Identify sites with descriptive markers telling the story of our landscape from mounds to settlement to early university use.
  7. Clean up/improve shoreline from Lot 60 to Memorial Union.
- Isabelle Girard 10/30/15: I attended the Tuesday night Open House for the 2015 Master Plan and spoke briefly with you about the Biotron options. I wanted to share how impressed I am with the plan in its approach and development. The master plan goals were relevant, clear, and useful in defining the project scope. Often, these general guidelines are vague and seem unrelated to the work that follows. I also think the focus on landscaping, green spaces, and transportation improvements is FANTASTIC! The plan looks to highlight the assets that the University already has in a way that enhances utility, beauty, and community. I am very excited! Thanks for your strong leadership and good stewardship of this project
- Daniel Doeppers 12/03/15: Please note that I completely support the points of critical feedback forwarded to you by the Board of the Friends organization. As New York City long ago discovered

with the the actions of Robert Moses, one can do a lot of permanent harm with landscape actions aimed at too narrow and shortsighted a goal.

- Arlene Koziol 12/03/15: We Do NOT support the proposed alteration of the current shoreline and wetlands, as shown in Concept 2 of the Master Plan. Specifically, our goals are:
  - Maintain the health of the University Bay and the Lake. Digging out a new shoreline to accommodate a “mini-union west” on the lakeshore may have unexpected harmful consequences to the shallow University Bay.
  - Retain the integrity of the current uninterrupted natural corridor of the Lakeshore Path toward Picnic Point. It successfully draws people seven days a week and is a model of environmentally conscious, sustainable recreation and transportation.
  - Convert Lot 60 into a consolidated sports complex, with the intention of maintaining as much open natural space as possible. Along the west end, create a combined track and soccer facility that employs adaptable seating. Develop an additional bio-retention pond.
  
- Carol Schlatter 12/03/15: I previously filled out a survey to the master planners (both concept 1 & 2 were too small for me to really see them) at which I said not to alter the shoreline or the heavily used bike/pedestrian paths. I was unclear as to what they had in mind for this connection from the hospital/research facilities to the lake. So I now wish to also support the ideas from the friends goals to “convert Lot 60 into a consolidated sports complex, with the intention of maintaining as much open natural space as possible. Along the west end , create a combined track and soccer facility that employs adaptable seating. Develop an additional bio-retention pond. Develop a fully accessible, landscaped corridor for pedestrians from the UW hospital and research facilities toward a social space near but separated from the shoreline and lakeshore path by the current wetland. I cannot imagine how the campus planners could be so misguided as to consider altering the lakeshore path which is so heavily used by walkers, runners, dog walkers and folks with their small children-both in and out of strollers. Or the bicycle path, which is used by students and staff to get to work, and by recreational bicyclists to go from Picnic Point the Memorial Union.
  
- Mary Lou McBride 12/04/15: Hello, I am a member of the Friends of the Lakeshore Preserve and I do NOT support the proposed alteration of the current shoreline and wetlands as shown in Concept 2. We need to maintain the health of Lake Mendota and University Bay. We need to leave an uninterrupted corridor of the Lakeshore path towards Picnic Point. These areas are heavily used for recreational purposes. I, for one, go walking almost daily along the Lakeshore path and I see many other walkers and runners of all ages. Please do NOT radically alter this wonderful area
  
- Cathryn Ann McBride 12/04/15: I am a member of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and I am writing to let you know that I do NOT support the proposed alteration of the current shoreline and wetlands as shown in Concept 2 of the Master Plan. We need to maintain the health of Lake Mendota as well as University Bay. We need to leave an uninterrupted corridor of the Lakeshore Path toward Picnic Point. I walk this area on a nearly daily basis. My kids grew up hiking and learning to ride their bikes on the Lakeshore Path, developing an appreciation of this beautiful natural area. We need to think twice about altering this gem on our campus.
  
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- Paul Williams 12/06/15: I strongly support the four statements endorsed by the Board of The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and submitted again here with a few added comments.

1) Maintain the health of the University Bay and the Lake by not digging out a new shoreline to accommodate a “mini-union west” on the lakeshore. Altering the shoreline at this time may have unexpected harmful consequences to the shallow University Bay.

2) It is very important for the long term future of the UW campus to retain the integrity of the current uninterrupted natural corridor of the Lakeshore Path toward Picnic Point. It successfully draws people seven days a week and is a model of environmentally conscious, sustainable recreation and transportation.

3) Convert Lot 60 into a consolidated sports complex, with the intention of maintaining as much open natural space as possible. Along the west end, create a combined track and soccer facility that employs adaptable seating. Develop an additional bio-retention pond.

4) Develop a fully accessible, landscaped corridor for pedestrians from the UW hospital and research facilities toward a social space near the shoreline. This facility should be separated from the shoreline and Lakeshore Path by the current wetland. Very Important.

- Dan Anderson 12/06/15: I support the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve regarding their response to the UW Campus Master plan. Specifically,
  - The Friends Board does NOT support the proposed alteration of the current shoreline and wetlands, as shown in Concept 2 of the Master Plan. Specifically, our goals are:
  - Maintain the health of the University Bay and the Lake. Digging out a new shoreline to accommodate a “mini-union west” on the lakeshore may have unexpected harmful consequences to the shallow University Bay.
  - Retain the integrity of the current uninterrupted natural corridor of the Lakeshore Path toward Picnic Point. It successfully draws people seven days a week and is a model of environmentally conscious, sustainable recreation and transportation.
  - Convert Lot 60 into a consolidated sports complex, with the intention of maintaining as much open natural space as possible. Along the west end, create a combined track and soccer facility that employs adaptable seating. Develop an additional bio-retention pond.
  - Develop a fully accessible, landscaped corridor for pedestrians from the UW hospital and research facilities toward a social space near the shoreline. This facility should be separated from the shoreline and Lakeshore Path by the current wetland.
- Deborah Ross Haines 12/07/15: I do NOT support the proposed alteration of the current shoreline and wetlands, as shown in Concept 2 of the Master Plan.

- Kennedy Gilchrist 12/07/15: First, thank you for your collective efforts to bring the ideas and proposals so openly to the public. I just wish that more persons would attend your meetings on this important issue. Secondly, I agree with colleagues that Concept 2 is the lesser appealing plan. My focus is on the issue is to keep “civilization” with its attendant noise (day and night) and night-time light pollution as far away from the borders of the Preserve as possible. I would retain as much water-containing area(s) as one can, especially those close to the Temin Path.

- Robert Schubert 12/07/15: I do NOT support the proposed alteration of the current shoreline and wetlands, as shown in Concept 2 of the Master Plan. Specifically:
  - Maintain the health of the University Bay and the Lake. Digging out a new shoreline to accommodate a “mini-union west” on the lakeshore may have unexpected harmful consequences to the shallow University Bay.
  - Retain the integrity of the current uninterrupted natural corridor of the Lakeshore Path toward Picnic Point. It successfully draws people seven days a week and is a model of environmentally conscious, sustainable recreation and transportation.
  - Convert Lot 60 into a consolidated sports complex, with the intention of maintaining as much open natural space as possible. Along the west end, create a combined track and soccer facility that employs adaptable seating. Develop an additional bio-retention pond.
  - Develop a fully accessible, landscaped corridor for pedestrians from the UW hospital and research facilities toward a social space near the shoreline. This facility should be separated from the shoreline and Lakeshore Path by the current wetland.
  - Lynne Krainer 12/7/16: I cannot imagine putting a facility for hospital employees and others in reclaimed land in Lake Mendota. Please preserve the integrity of the lakeshore and let the path go through, not new glitz of a building used only on "good" days. I am aware of no plans for hospital facilities, what I meant was the emphasis of a view from the hospital toward a snack shack or refreshment place on the lake is not right. I would prefer no dredging of the lake shore and no wet lands should disappear. Hospital staff can walk down toward a refreshment facility which is inland and not on the lakeshore. Please preserve the more wild nature of the path where it is. Yes, the best use of the land is green not asphalt. I applaud those efforts.
- Susan Will-Wolf 12/07/15: I fully support the Friends board statements below about the new West Campus master plan Concept 2 being undesirable, and their specific statements about Concept 1 plan elements.
  - As a past member of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve committee and a retired member of the campus ecology community, I want to point out in addition that it is a great benefit to the entire campus in several ways to avoid ANY development encroachment on the Preserve, including the entire campus shoreline. West Campus master plan Concept 2 seems unacceptable from this perspective, but even Concept 1 needs to be carefully examined in detail to avoid or minimize any further disruption to Preserve areas (plus any part of the lake shore that happens not to be a current part of the Preserve).
  - The naturalness of the continuous shoreline corridor and the rest of the Preserve enhance both the appearance and the livability of the entire campus and its community. Accepting limits on short-term advantages and usage for a few to maintain/enhance the long-term sustainability for all of the campus microcosm including the Preserve is a life lesson important to teach by actions and appearance, not just words.
  - For teaching related to any facets of the natural environment, the Preserve areas including the continuous natural lakeshore corridor will become more rather than less important. As resources get squeezed, on-campus outdoor laboratories become more valuable teaching resources.
  - The Preserve has many erosion and runoff problems in need of amelioration from past unthinking modifications to the lake shore, more than Preserve staff can currently

address. No Preserve resources should have to be diverted for coping with the inevitable unintended deleterious consequences to both lake and shoreline of new shoreline disruption, in addition to the known problems of shoreline disruptions that are often downplayed in the planning process by physical engineers and planners such as advocates of West Campus Concept 2.

- As a trained restoration ecologist yourself, you are well aware that newly-built wetlands do NOT match either the biodiversity or the ecosystem functions of a natural or much older restored wetland for many, many years if ever.
  
- Don Sanford 12/07/15: Attached is a short letter with my feedback on the 2015 West Campus Master Plan document recently circulated to the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. (letter note included)
  
- Judy Middleton 12/07/15: My husband and I walk the lake shore path and hike on Picnic Pt. trails several days a week all year. We also use the pier to take family and friends out on our pontoon boat. We are concerned that the new plan seems to want to make the area less natural. This area should not be an entertainment center. As it is I am concerned Picnic Pt. is becoming too managed. We don't need lots of signs or manicured trails. We don't need a Kiosk and gardens at Frauchi Pt. Let people discover things on their own. Leave it as wild as possible.
  
- Karen Stier 12/08/15: As a member of the University community, I write to add my voice to those of others who are deeply concerned with the proposed Concept 2 of the Master Plan. Specifically, I am concerned with the environmental impact of the proposal on the ecology and well-being of the lake, shallow University Bay, and overall natural areas that currently exist. We need to preserve what is left of this valuable natural area and its wetlands, without additional development that will harm animals, vegetation, and people alike. Thank you in advance for your consideration.
  
- Dr. Rayla Temin 12/23/15: The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is a unique treasure that we are blessed to have on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Every effort should be made to preserve its beauty and its special features during the consideration of development in the area. Concept One, in which, as listed, the social space is separated from the lake by the wetland, preserves the Triangle Marsh in its current locale. Concept Two, on the other hand, proposes to reconfigure and relocate the wetland and to modify the lake edge. I feel very concerned about Concept Two, which would dig out the Triangle Marsh and alter the **contour** of the shoreline, with possible dire consequences on the shallow bay and the sandbanks where birds are even now perching, and on the flow patterns of the waters, along with other potential negative effects on Lake Mendota. The curvature change next to the proposed plaza likewise alters the special and valued experience of traversing the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path, bringing walkers and bikers right up next to the to-be developed area in that section, attenuating the views and the feelings of enclosure by nature along the way. I cannot support Concept Two.  
On the other hand, in Concept One, the Triangle Marsh, retained where it is now, can act as buffer to the zone of the proposed new building -- shielding walkers and bikers a bit from the developments, helping them to better experience the tranquility of the lake on one side and the

wetland on the other. Such was the experience of Professor Howard M. Temin, as he proceeded on the beautiful Lakeshore Path to and from his work in the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research, thinking about his experiments, thus bringing to bear the benefits of immersion in the natural areas of the UW with scientific research on campus. Quoting the passage on the bronze plaques on the path named in his honor,

**“Throughout the seasons, throughout the years, Dr. Temin walked and biked on this path, appreciating its beauty and finding enrichment in its setting and wildlife.”**

Let us celebrate our exceptional lakeside setting, and preserve the Temin Path in the configuration it has followed along the lakeshore these many eons, so that all may benefit in the years to come.

- Dr. Rayla Temin 12/31/15: As I have been walking along the Temin Lakeshore Path over this holiday interval, and especially realizing how precious the Preserve and this path is to so many people, I again want to express my thanks for the action taken to drop concept 2 and to proceed with concept 1, preserving the path and the shoreline along Lake Mendota. I have been savoring this good news as I walk and see others walking there, and I very much appreciate too your comments about the HMT path; it means a lot. So, on the brink of New Year 2016, I again say thank you !