



Picnic Point to get makeover

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The view from Picnic Point is going from barely there to panoramic.

Work began this month along the popular peninsula to clear out invasive plants, opening up expansive views of Lake Mendota, Downtown Madison and campus.

The project will also build stone steps down to the water's edge, add overlook spaces and create a stone circle around the fire pit.

Most of the construction will be done by Nov. 1, said Gary Brown, UW-Madison's director of planning and landscape architecture. Some final landscaping will be done next spring.

The project costs about \$800,000 and is paid for with private donations, Brown said.

Picnic Point has long been a cherished spot for hikers and picnickers.

But in order to get a clear view of the lake and Madison's skyline, people had to clamber past honeysuckle, buckthorn, mulberry and other weeds, down a steep slope to the water's edge.

That, plus storm water, caused erosion problems. The project will restore native ground cover to hold soil in place and plant native shrubs.

A variety of native trees will be left in place, Brown said.

Before the project began, UW-Madison held two public meetings and early designs were reviewed with input from the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee and Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

