



Natural Resource Department
August 2015 - PROGRESS REPORT

Lake County Green Infrastructure Model and Strategy

Contract has been awarded to the Conservation Fund and the advisory group has been working on the collection of data and recently we have been able to increase the resolution from 30 meter down to 1 meter resolution. Second progress meeting occurred August 25, 2015.

Planning Underway for 2015/16 Winter Clearing Efforts at the following Preserves:

Greenbelt – Grant funded
Singing Hills/Kettle Grove – Private Donation
Van Patten Woods – In-House Staff
Wadsworth Savanna – Habitat Restoration Fund
Southern Des Plaines Woodland Restoration Sites - CIP
 Captain Daniel Wright Woods
 Lloyd's Woods
Edward L Ryerson Conservation Area
MacArthur Woods

Grassy Lake - CIP
Spring Bluff - Grant Funded
Grant Woods- Private Donation
Cuba Marsh - CIP
Lakewood - CIP
 Preserve Boundary Enhancement
 Schreiber Bog Area

North Mill Creek Restoration



North Mill Creek restoration is proceeding very nicely. The contractors have installed the draw-down structure and have removed 4 stop logs. Exposed lake bottom will need to dry out over the next 12 months. Natural Resource Staff has done several fish and mussel recovery efforts. Two species of mussel were collected, both of which are indicators of poor water quality.



RAMSAR Wetlands of International Importance – Chiwaukee-Illinois Beach Lake Plain

Invitations have been sent out for the September 25th event for the recognition of the Chiwaukee-Illinois Beach Lake Plain Wetlands of International Importance. An event will be held at the North Point Marina.

Pine Dunes Forest Preserve Tollway Mitigation Project

Public Access and Trails have been 80% completed.
Restoration of the wetlands has been completed
Stream restoration work is completed
Woody clearing is near completion.

Fort Sheridan Great Lakes Fish and Ecosystem Restoration Program



Project focuses on the ecological restoration of natural Lake Michigan habitats including ravines, bluff, lakeshore and nearshore communities.

The Forest Preserve has received and reviewed the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with legal counsel and the PPA was signed by the President on August 20, 2015. A cover letter was included that outlined our concerns in terms of cost control and communication for the project. The Forest Preserve will receive a request for transfer of the District's 35% cost (\$2,600,000) in the next month.

The Army Corps of Engineers has developed 100% of plans and specifications, which the District and our consultant has reviewed and we are awaiting revisions.

The project has been advertised (August 21, 2015) with the bids due on September 21, 2015 with award on September 30, 2015 with a Notice to Proceed on October 15, 2015

The placement of T-heads on the groins was considered to be outside the scope of the GLFER program and have been substituted with under-water reef structures that provides habitat for Lake Michigan fish species. The District and the ACOE will be placing the reefs to provide protection to dune habitat along the shore line

In order to implement the project, we will likely need to access the work areas via Gilgare/Cliff Road. A staging area can be used just south of the private residence, as well as other areas associated with McCormack and Bartlett Ravines.

It is also very likely that we will have to close portions or all of the preserve while under construction.

Fort Sheridan Tree/Shrub Planting Project

Preparation for the planting of trees and shrubs is underway and entails the mowing of areas where the trees and shrubs will be planted

Volunteers

Volunteers have been working diligently at Cuba Marsh, Old School, Grassy Lake and other preserves. They are gearing up for seed collection, fall burning and buckthorn removal.

Nursery

Nursery Operations are focusing on seed harvest and preparation for the winter propagation season.