



Natural Resource Department
October 2015 - PROGRESS REPORT

RAMSAR Designation

The Chiwaukee Prairie Illinois Beach Lake Plain received recognition as the second Lake Michigan RAMSAR wetland and the fifth in Illinois. This complex represents a significant portion of the dune and swale habitat remaining in the world – globally significant



Habitat Restoration Projects

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

- Greenbelt – Grant funding has been suspended
- Singing Hills/Kettle Grove – Private Donation
- 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
- Van Patten Woods – In-House Staff
- Grant Woods- Private Donation
- Cuba Marsh - CIP
- Lakewood - CIP
 - Preserve Boundary Enhancement
 - Schreiber Bog Area
- Wadsworth Savanna – Habitat Restoration Fund

Fort Sheridan Great Lakes Fish and Ecosystem Restoration Program



Project focuses on the ecological restoration of natural Lake Michigan habitats including ravines, bluff, lake shore and nearshore communities. Project bids have been received and the contract will be awarded to John Keno and Sons in the amount of ~ \$9,700,000. Project commencement proposed for November/December

A project closure plan is being prepared.

Tree planting began September 7th and should be completed by the first week of October.

Pine Dunes Forest Preserve Tollway Mitigation Project

Public Access and Trails have been 100% completed.

Restoration of the wetlands is 90% completed.

Stream restoration work is completed.

Woodland and wetland restoration has entered the 5-year management and monitoring phase.

Opening of the preserve is anticipated on November 20, 2015

Volunteer Program

- 46 Volunteer workdays occurred, most sites are beginning to collect seed, some sites are beginning to cut and burn brush
- 2 workdays of chain sawing and herbiciding in preparation for the (100 Volunteer) Astella Corporate workday at Greenbelt
- North Chicago ROTC came out to a workday at Greenbelt beginning local community support efforts
- Site Stewards helped with the Annual Des Plaines River Clean up. Navy Volunteers participated.
- Stewards planted hundreds of shrubs of various species at sites throughout the County.

Nursery Program

- Planted 2000 plugs, 500 shrubs
- Gave a tour to Kane Co FP - they are interested in seed production beds & propagation
- Continue to mentor the CLC intern, who is interested in propagation, nursery management, and is growing a stronger interest in natural areas management.
- Collected 73 species this year (and counting) from the production beds.
- Small batches of seed have been field-collected for 2016 propagation
- Beds in the shade structures are completely planted as of this summer
- Expanded planting plots in the Wild Bed #1 under the oaks in Rollins Savanna, and also in Wild Bed #2 along Linden Ave. This new wild bed was started this spring, following the winter clearing of 2014-2015.
- Greenhouse is winding down for the year, with the transplanting wrapping up & plants moving out
- Excess plants are finding homes with appropriate volunteer Stewards at sites, including Grant Woods, Grassy Lake, Old School, MacArthur Woods, Wilmot Woods, and Cuba Marsh (Ela Prairie).
- Staff seed orders are arriving. Seed requests for volunteer Stewards are going out.
- Reforestation shrubs are arriving for our temporary care.
- Plus the ongoing maintenance activities of weeding, watering, etc.