



Natural Resource Department
December 2015 – PROGRESS REPORT

Lake Michigan ravine and Lakeplain opportunities

Restoration of coastal lake plain habitat along the Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain (Lake Co FPD)

Illinois Lake Michigan Implementation Plan: Creating a Vision for the Illinois Coast

Top Priorities

- > Improve the connectivity.
- > Increase recreational access to waterways and beaches.
- > Link water and land-based trails and facilities.

Green Infrastructure Model and Strategy

An update meeting was held on November 16, 2015 where a review of the progress of the project was discussed with our partners. Areas of focus are water resources, the Lake Michigan watershed, large core native communities, three 10,000 acre complexes and ecosystem value assessment. We are anticipating a mid-February presentation to commissioners and partners.

Collaboration at Ryerson Woods

Through funding from the Forest Preserve’s *Preservation Foundation*, the District will be working with the communities around Ryerson Woods to encourage eradicating buckthorn and other invasive species on private property through the Conserve Lake County’s Conservation at Home Program. We are focusing on the Ryerson and surrounding areas in conjunction with our past restoration efforts of this important nature preserve and the stand of natural oak communities surrounding the preserve.

Deer Management Program

Removals will begin on Monday, November 30, 2015

Blanding’s Turtle Research

Submitted grant to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for funding to expand the Blanding’s Turtle Research Project to the Lake Michigan RAMSAR lake plain area in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Fort Sheridan Great Lakes Fish and Ecosystem Restoration Program



Northwestern University donated approximately 75,000 plants of Marram Grass to be used for restoration along Lake Michigan. These plants will help stabilize the dunal areas along Lake Michigan

Plants of the Chicago Region

Ken Klick, Restoration Ecologist, has been asked to peer review Dr. Gerould Wilhelm’s and Laura Rericha’s expansion of Floyd Swink’s and Gerould Wilhelm’s *Plants of the Chicago Region*.

2015/16 Winter Clearing Efforts Scheduled:

Greenbelt – Grant funded
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 - In-house staff and contractor
Cuba Marsh - CIP
Lakewood - CIP
 Preserve Boundary Enhancement
 Schreiber Bog Area
Wadsworth Savanna – Habitat Restoration Fund

Native Seed Nursery:

As of November 18, volunteers worked 2,311 hours in 102 workdays for the current calendar year. Work included field collection of seed, planting and plant rescues, and work in the nursery. Volunteer hours are up 15% over those in the entire 2014 calendar year.

Outdoor work is concluded: greenhouse and nursery bed irrigation system have been winterized, plants have been moved to their winter locations and covered for the season, and seed collecting is concluded. Currently, the focus is on processing the seed harvest, handling seed deliveries, and sending out seed to be broadcast in the preserves. Nursery Coordinator, Kelly Schultz, participated in a College of Lake County Advisory Committee meeting for the Biological Sciences Department. Chicago Botanic Garden and Northwestern University submitted a permit for a research project, utilizing a small unused part of the Nursery to study the effect of different genotypes of native seeds. The permit was approved and the project will commence in December.

Volunteer Workdays:

In October and November, volunteer stewards conducted 92 workdays that consisted of invasive brush cutting and seed collection/dispersal. Total volunteer hours will be reported in January for the calendar year of 2015.