



Natural Resource Department August 2016 – PROGRESS REPORT

Eradicate Buckthorn Pilot Project

District staff met with representatives of Abbott Laboratories, Lake Forest Academy and the Chicago Bears as potential partners in the eradication project.

Grants

We are looking at grant opportunities for funding of the North Mill Creek Restoration project through the USEPA 319 Grant Fund.

In partnership with the Forest Preserve District, Northern Illinois University has been awarded a Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grant for \$111,002 to support the work with Blanding's Turtles.

Blanding's Turtles

Ecologists have collected 143 Blanding's Turtles eggs from 10 females for captive rearing. Ecologists have documented 11 nest sites, of which only 4 were depredated. Ecologists have encountered a record 142 Blanding's Turtles in lake plain preserves, up from last year's record of 127. This finding makes it the largest known population of Blanding's in the state.

Nursery

The Nursery staff, YCC and volunteers have planted over 7,000 plant plugs of native species in the nursery, in wild beds and in preserves. Some of these species are an effort to increase populations of very, rare species.

Regular On-Going Projects

- ❖ District Wide Invasive Species Control project is underway and will continue through the summer.
- ❖ Wildlife Monitoring has been up and running since the first of April and will continue through late summer. A total of 21 sites comprising 108 points have been monitored for birds, snakes and turtles.
- ❖ Vegetation monitoring program is underway.
- ❖ Ecologists are monitoring clearing projects for follow-up herbiciding of resprouts.
- ❖ Illinois Coastal Management Grant cooperative effort between the District, the Alliance for Great Lakes and the Audubon Chicago Region, is going well for restoration at Greenbelt. Volunteer stewardship participation is increasing at a preserve that has had no natural resource stewardship previously.

