



***Natural Resource Department
June 2015 – PROGRESS REPORT***

Habitat Restoration Projects



**Pine Dunes Forest Preserve
Tollway Mitigation Project**

Public Access and Trails have been 70% completed

Restoration of wetland hydrology has been completed

Stream restoration work has been completed

Woody clearing is near completion

Fort Sheridan Great Lakes Fish and Ecosystem Restoration Program – Tentative Schedule

- Concept Plans – June 1st
- Project Partnership Agreement Signed – June 15th
- Final Project Review – July 30th
- Advertise – August 10th
- Contract Award – September 30th

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

- Greenbelt
- Singing Hills/Kettle Grove
- Southern Des Plaines Woodland Restoration Sites
 - Captain Daniel Wright Woods
 - Lloyd's Woods
 - Edward L Ryerson Conservation Area
- Grassy Lake
- Spring Bluff
- Van Patten Woods
- Grant Woods
- Cuba Marsh
- Lakewood
 - Preserve Boundary Enhancement
 - Schreiber Bog Area
- Wadsworth Savanna

Finished Farmland Clean-up at Dutch Gap Forest Preserve

Wisconsin-Illinois Lakeplain Restoration Efforts

Implemented Agreements for Stage IV Invasive Species Strike Force Team and Follow-up Work to Start in May/June 2015

Nursery

Over the winter the staff and volunteers processed the collected native species seed from 2014. The result was 280 pounds of seed from over 200 species. The value of the collected seed is over \$177,000 without considering the value of the 30 species that are so rare there is not a commercial market to compare the value to. There was nearly 2000 volunteer hours to assist in the process.

Volunteers

In collaboration with Living Lands and Waters Organization the District coordinated three tree planting work days at Gander Mountain and Old School Forest Preserves planting 3000 native oak species.

Ecological Monitoring Program

District staff has begun implementing seasonal monitoring efforts including the following monitoring activities:

Breeding Bird Surveys	Blanding's Turtle Population Monitoring
Wetland Bird Surveys	Long-term Vegetation Transects
District-wide Wildlife Surveys	Long-term Tree Plots

Monitoring for the Southern Des Plaines Woodland Habitat Restoration Project including bird populations and response, amphibian breeding success, soil characteristics, herbaceous species and tree species.

Ecological Investigations

Buckthorn Population Mapping - Field Museum

Route 53 Extension Surface Water Monitoring – Illinois State Geological Survey

Biological Assessment of the Route 53 and 120 Corridor – Illinois Natural History Survey

Grassland Mammal, Snake and Amphibian Recovery – Lincoln Park Zoo

Reproductive Success and Survival of Sandhill Cranes – University of Illinois

Flora and Fauna of the Hiawatha Rail Line Right-of-Way – Illinois Natural History Survey

Climate Change Effect on Pond Breeding Salamanders – Loyola University

Independence Grove and Sterling Lake Ambient Lake Monitoring – Illinois EPA

Pathogen Analysis in Deer Ticks – Lake County Health Department