



Crystal Lake Park District
Special Park Board Meeting
Minutes - October 5, 2017 - 7:00 pm

Commissioner Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Commissioners Present: Thomas Aquilina, Caroline Bachour-Chemaly, Larry Wheeler, Shawn Zimmerman, Debbie Gallagher

Commissioners Absent: Michele Hartwig, Julie Martens

Legal Counsel: Scott Puma, Scott Puma, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni and Krafthefer, P.C.

Staff Present: Jason Herbster, Executive Director, Ann Viger, Director of Planning and Development, Jacqui Weber, Marketing Coordinator, Gary Svejcar, Park Police Sgt., Anne Sandor, Recording Secretary

Citizens: See attached sign in sheets

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Aquilina moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bachour-Chemaly

Fetzner Park Riparian Restoration Project Presentation:

Executive Director Herbster addressed the Residents and Board with the purpose of this meeting. Herbster reported the construction work on the Fetzner Park Riparian Restoration Project in Crystal Lake was put on hold Thursday, September 21, after residents expressed concern about the scope of the tree removal phase of the project. The Park Board scheduled this meeting to address these concerns and to provide information about the project.

Ann Viger, Director of Planning and Development, presented a slideshow showing details of the Woods Creek Watershed project, including committee and public meeting dates, goals and implementation timeline for the Fetzner Park project. The Watershed partners include the City of Crystal Lake, the Crystal Lake Park District, the Village of Algonquin and the Village of Lake in the Hills. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Steve Zimmerman, Project Consultant / Senior Ecologist, Applied Ecological Services, Inc., gave a presentation showing the scope of the Fetzner Park Riparian Restoration Project. In this presentation, he showed slides of restoration projects in Illinois, highlighting the restoration areas when invasive species are removed and replaced with native plants, tree replacement, native plant restoration, and the goals for the Fetzner Park Riparian Area Restoration. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Matters from the Public:

Commissioner Gallagher explained the Rules of Public Comment at a Park District Board meeting as follows. The public is invited to bring to the Board's attention any matter of public concern not otherwise on the agenda. Public comment may be no longer than 5 minutes per person in duration, with a 15 minute maximum overall. Interrogation of the Park District Staff, Board Members or Legal Counsel will not be allowed at this time, nor will any comment from the Park Board, Staff or Legal Counsel. Personal invectives against Park District Staff, Legal Counsel, or Elected Officials are not permitted. Due to the number of citizen's wishing to speak, Commissioner Gallagher waived the 15 minute maximum overall.

Several residents expressed concerns of the removal of too many trees, removing established habitat and administering herbicide.

Mike J. Fleck, Attorney (Huntley, IL) reported he had a background as an environmental chemist and a degree in law. He thanked the Park District for providing the additional information on the project. He expressed a concern that Park District had an overzealous approach with the tree removal and herbicides administered in Fetzner Park.

Scott Kuyendall, Park District Resident, reported he had ecological credentials, commended the District for the work done at Woods Creek Park, and appreciated the presentation. He stated he understood the reasons for the removal of trees. He explained the water retention of prairie plant roots and the need of sunlight for a healthy habitat.

Chris Sherdon, Park District Resident, stated she had a petition with 50 signatures who were against this project. She shared information she obtained from internet, and notes from a graduate of the Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Studies, who reviewed the project plans and an article from the University of Illinois regarding riparian restoration projects. She expressed the notification to the residents on this project did not inform them of the amount of trees to be removed and amount of herbicide applied to the park.

She listed concerns of removing healthy trees, losing the noise barrier from Ackman Road, losing property value, and the disruption of the wildlife habitat, the project causing flooding in the detention pond and losing the peace and beauty of the park. Ms. Sherdon asked the District to come to an acceptable resolution that saves the remaining healthy trees, consider the wildlife, restore some of the damage that has already been done, discontinue using toxic chemicals and guarantees that this project will not flood the homes or reduce property values. Ms. Sherdon noted the homes in the area have not flooded in 27 years due to the creek. She stated if the project directly affects flooding of the homes, there will be a class action lawsuit.

Sally Taylor expressed the concern of liability and the annoyance of children walking through their property once the trees are removed.

James Taylor, Park District Resident, asked if the project manager had a financial interest in the project and expressed he was concerned about the wildlife habitat.

Julie Marchik, Park District Resident, stated this is a great project and the creek needs to be cleaned up.

John Dierson, Park District Resident, asked the Board to compromise on the volume of trees to be removed.

BJ Ross, Park District Resident, stated the information the Park District sent to the park neighbors regarding the project was misleading. She expressed concern of kids play and chemical exposure.

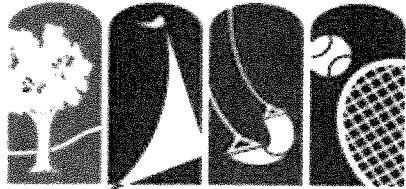
Ryan Johnson, Project Manager, Applied Ecological Services, Inc., addressed the concerns of the herbicide. He stated that he applied less than the recommended amount of the Aqua Neat product. He remained in the park to be sure the product dried before people were allowed to walk on it.

Rachel Boldman, Park District Resident, expressed concern of the height of the plantings. She asked for the Park District plans of moving forward.

Commissioner Gallagher stated she was in favor of the project moving forward and suggested staff and the contractor revisit the tree removal. The Board agreed.

The Commissioners thanked the public for attending the meeting and expressing their concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.



CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Board Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Special Meeting
Date: October 5, 2017

| PLEASE PRINT NAME | ADDRESS PHONE | COMPANY AFFILIATION | Wish to Speak | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | Y | N |
| NANCY + WAYNE STONE | 1465 LOCH LOMOND | | | ✓ |
| MIKE LULAS | 694 AUBURN CT. | | | - |
| Jayne Emma-Perry | 1394 Bridgedale Rd. | | | - |
| JANET BALDACCIO | 866 STONEBRIDGE | | | |
| KEN SHERDEN | 1421 LOCH LOMOND | | | - |
| Michael J. Steck, Esq. | 11608 Den St, Huntley | Attorney | ✓ | |
| Scott Ruy Kendall | 240 Ash St. Crystal Lake | | ✓ | |
| Amy Ricci | 1399 Loch Lomond | | | |
| Ryan Johnson | | ACS | | ✓ |
| Emmanuelle Voleek | 1415 Loch Lomond | | | ✓ |
| Alexa Edick | 1393 Loch Lomond | | | |
| Rich Gordon | " | | | |
| Chris Sherden | 1421 Loch Lomond | | ✓ | |
| DANN GIESEG | 1427 Loch Lomond | | ✓ | |
| Sally & JAMES TAYLOR | 1367 Loch Lomond | | ✓ | |
| Rachel Boldman | 1359 Loch Lomond | | | ✓ |
| Julie Marchik | 1353 Loch Lomond | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Jody Kulitz | 1781 Sonefield | | | ✓ |
| Lisa Camasta | 1452 Candlewood Dr | | | X |
| Frank Camasta | 1452 Candlewood Dr | | | X |
| Kim Diersen | 1447 LOCH LOMOND DR. | | | |
| Jon DIERSEN | 1447 LOCH LOMOND DR. | | ✓ | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Woods Creek Watershed Planning Committee

- Started meeting in September 2011
- Watershed Partners
 - City of Crystal Lake
 - Crystal Lake Park District
 - Village of Algonquin
 - Village of Lake in the Hills

Eight Goals of Plan

- Identify, protect, and manage the Green Infrastructure Network.
- Create policy to protect watershed resources from the impacts of future development.
- Restore and manage aquatic and terrestrial habitat.
- Provide watershed educational opportunities.
- Improve and monitor surface water quality.
- Improve groundwater recharge.
- Increase and/or improve recreational opportunities.
- Mitigate for existing structural flood problems.

- First public meeting in January 2012
- Committee Members and Participants

- Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Lake in the Hills Sanitary District
- Land Conservancy of McHenry County
- McHenry County Division of Transportation
- McHenry County Stormwater Division
- McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Representatives from Home Owner's Associations
- Representatives from private business
- Residents
- Students

- Fetzner Park identified as:

- A sensitive aquifer recharge area with high potential for contamination.
- A critical stream reach that is highly eroded and a likely source of high total suspended solids carrying phosphorus downstream.
- A high priority for streambank and channel restoration.
- A critical area for riparian restoration and maintenance.

- Other CLPD projects/recommendations (low and medium priorities):

- Hampton Park
- Ken Bird Park
- Sterling Meadows Park
- Woodscreek Park
- Sam Johns Park
- Winding Creek Park
- Indian Prairie Park

- Mission Statement identified by stake holders:

"Improve water quality through refined stormwater management, flood reduction, enriched natural area management, groundwater recharge protection, utilization of green infrastructure, and control of invasive species. The goal is to enhance ecosystem benefits within Woods Creek watershed and ultimately the Fox River through education and stewardship."

- Four more planning meetings held in 2012 including a tour of the watershed.
- Final Report published in January 2013.

- Implementation Timeline

- 10 Year Capital Project Plan
- Concept plans and budget development
- Public meeting June 2015
- Write grant application
- Grant application approved by Board July 2015
- Grant award July 2016
 - EPA Share \$110,130
 - CLPD Share \$73,420
- Grant agreement with IEPA August 2016
- CLPD share included in FY 2017-18 Budget (May 1, 2017)
- Delay from EPA due to Illinois budget impasse
- Funds released July 2017
- Project began mid-September 2017



Fetzner Park Riparian Area Restoration Project

Steve Zimmerman, M.S. (Senior Ecologist & Certified Arborist)



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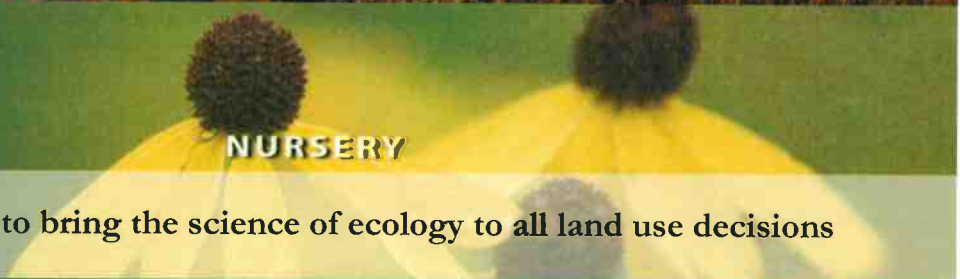
CONSULTING



CONTRACTING



NURSERY



Our Vision is to bring the science of ecology to all land use decisions

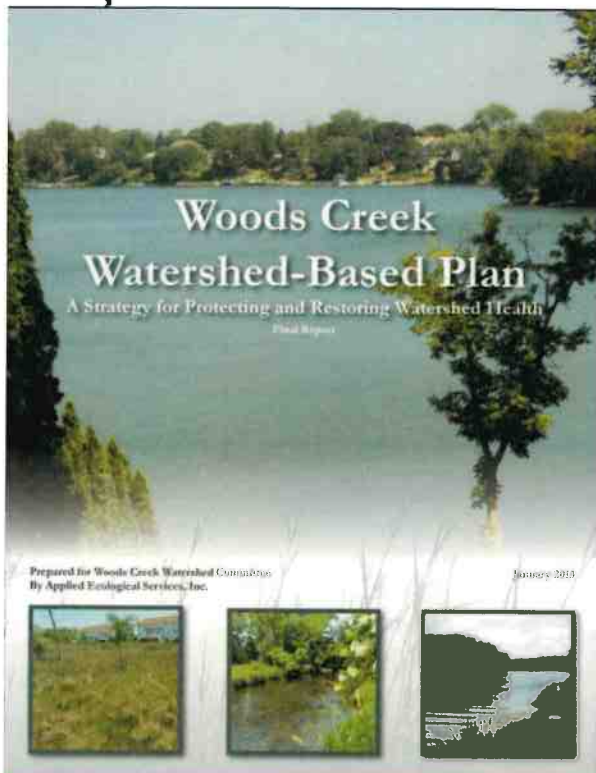


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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Importance of the Woods Creek Watershed Plan



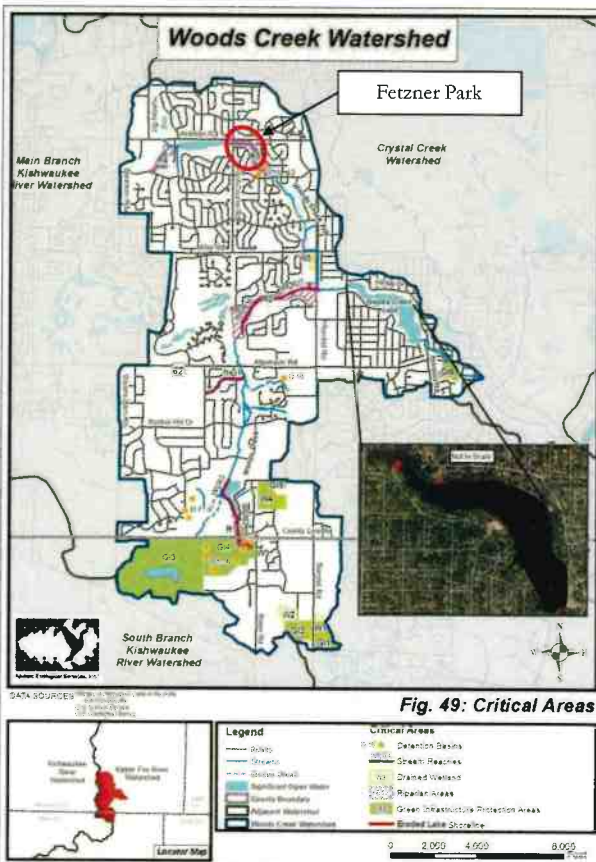
Planning effort between Crystal Lake Park District, Algonquin, Lake in the Hills, and Crystal Lake to evaluate the ecological health of Woods Creek Watershed and ID potential restoration projects.



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Critical Area Projects & EPA 319 Grants

EPA awards grants based on:

Is the project documented in a EPA approved watershed plan?

Is the project identified as a Critical Area?



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Fetzner Park Riparian Area: EPA 319 Grant



Crystal Lake Park District applied for an EPA 319 Grant in 2015 and was awarded the grant in 2016.



CLPD = 40% of cost
EPA = 60% of cost

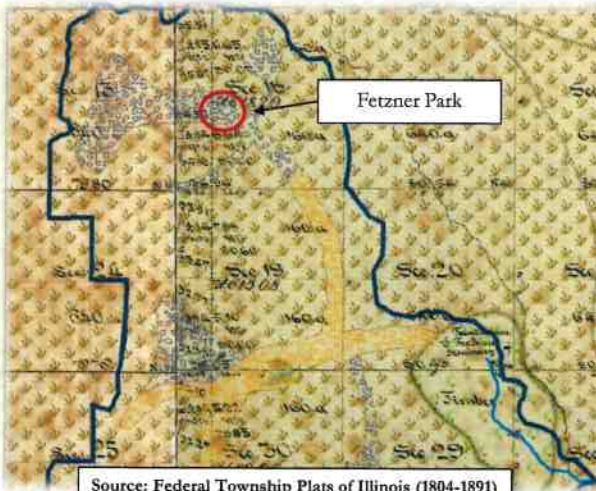


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Lets Take a Trip Back in Time Prior to European Settlement (1830's)



Source: Federal Township Plats of Illinois (1804-1891)



The land was described as primarily “Wet Prairie & Marsh”

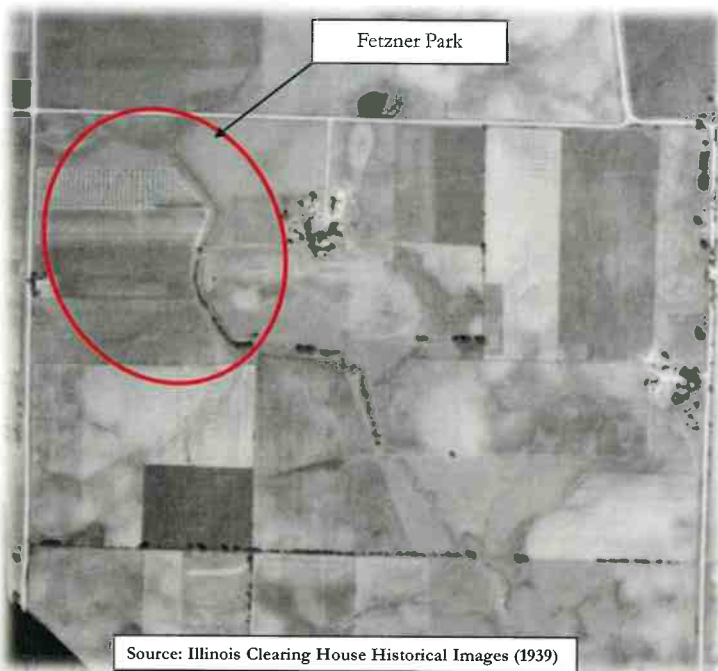


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How did the Land Change 100 Years After Europeans Arrived?



By 1939, the area is farmed and historic wetlands drained via the creation of a drainage ditch.

Notice how few trees are located within the riparian corridor.



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What does Fetzner Park Look Like Today?



Development now surrounds the Park.

Invasive shrubs & trees (cottonwood, box elder, & buckthorn) dominate the riparian corridor.



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Existing Degraded Conditions



Overgrown Banks & Degraded Channel



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Existing Degraded Conditions



Debris Jams

Uprooted Cottonwood Trees



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Existing Degraded Conditions



Poor Sight Lines along Path

Unused Turf Grass Areas that Require Maintenance



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Fetzner Park Riparian Area Restoration Goals

- * Improve water quality
- * Improve green infrastructure connections
- * Improve wildlife and fish habitat
- * Improve aesthetics along walking/biking path
- * Less maintenance needed by Park District



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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Tree Preservation Plan



Festiver Park Trees Survey - Trees to Protect

| ID# | Species Name | Common Name | DBH | Notes |
|-----|--------------------|-------------|-----|-------|
| 101 | Pinus strobus | White Pine | 18 | |
| 102 | Thuja occidentalis | Green Thuja | 12 | |
| 103 | Thuja occidentalis | Green Thuja | 12 | |
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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Native Landscaping Plan



Legend

- Hazelnut (5 total)
- Arrowwood Mountain (5 total)
- Vernal Witchhazel (10 total)
- Mesic Prairie Seed Mix (7.5 acres)
- Floodplain Seed Mix (2.5 acres)
- Wet Prairie Seed Mix (0.1 acres)

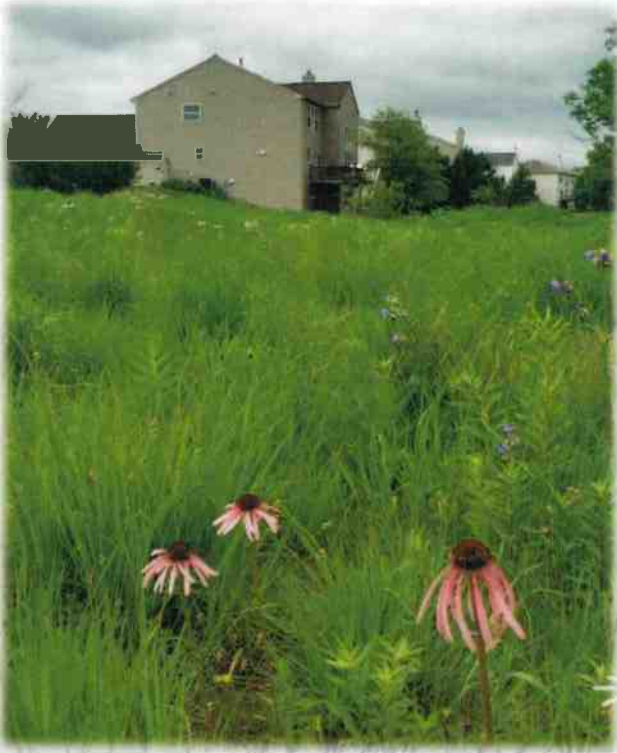


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Native Prairie Restoration



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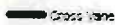

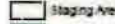




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Erosion Control Plan



Legend

-  Cross Vane
-  Woods Creek Tributary
-  Staging Area
-  Erosion Control Blanket, MAX 675, 10' Edge (4.3 acres)
-  Straw Mulch (5.8 acres)



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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Erosion Control Methods

- Cover Crop on slopes
- Straw Mulch on flat areas
- Biodegradable Erosion Blanket
 - NAG S75 BN
 - NAG SC150 BN



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Stream Riffles Using Natural Glacial Stone



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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Educational Signage (Four 24" x 48")

FETZNER PARK RIPARIAN AREA RESTORATION PROJECT

Ecological Restoration with Native Plants

Riparian areas include the vegetation, habitat, or ecosystem along a stream. Native plants provide a variety of riparian functions; one of the most important is improving water quality. Deep-rooted native plants (bottom, right) reduce soil erosion, help infiltrate stormwater runoff, and absorb some forms of pollution before they can enter the stream. Native plants also provide excellent wildlife habitat, require minimal maintenance, and do not need fertilizer.

In contrast, shallow-rooted lawn grass (bottom, right) offers very little erosion control, water infiltration, pollution removal, or wildlife habitat. Lawn grass allows for easy access to the stream by geese, a major contributor to water pollution. In addition, much of the fertilizer applied to lawn grass can run off into the stream causing algae problems.



Funded, in part, under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act.
Grant No.: C99520016

For more information, contact Illinois EPA at (217)782-3362.
FAA Number: 3191614

LEFT: ROOT SYSTEMS OF LAWN GRASS VERSUS NATIVE SPECIES
Image: Conservation Research Institute: 2005

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Example Project (Lawndale Creek)



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Example Project

(Carpenter Creek)



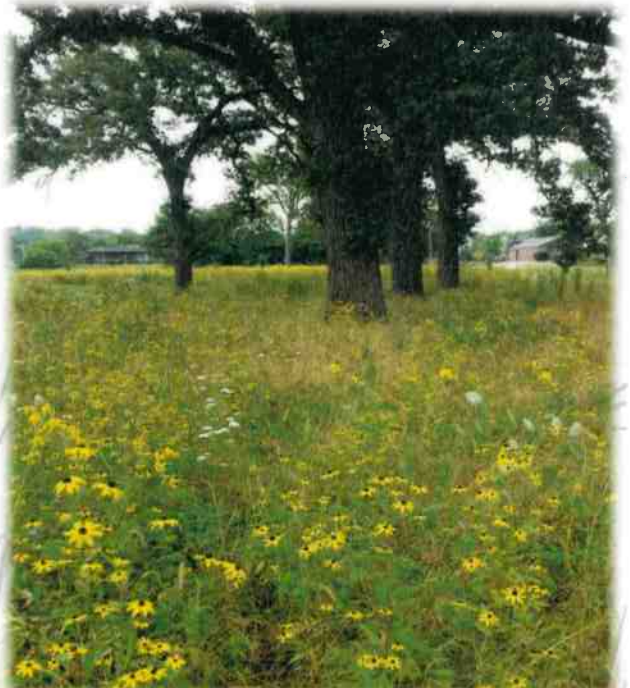
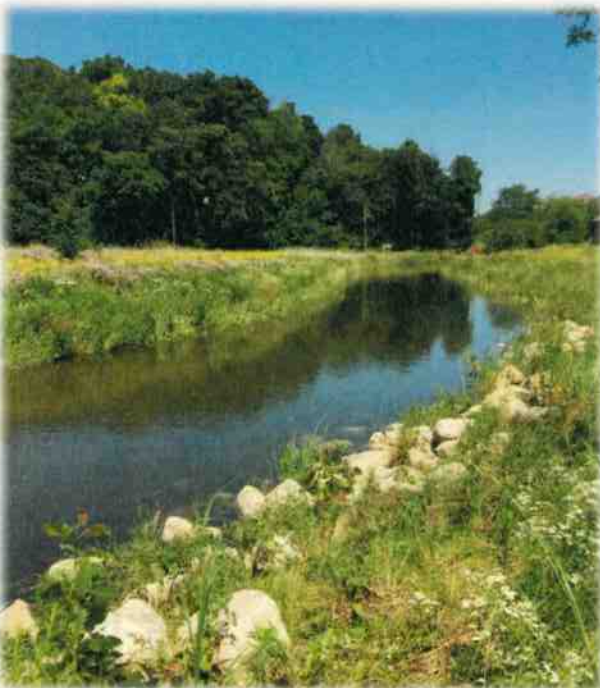
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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Example Project

(Crystal Creek)



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Example Project

(Ratt Creek)



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Example Project

(Souwanas Creek)



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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Example Project

(Dixie Briggs Fromm Nature Preserve)



Source: Dundee Township



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Example Project

(Indian Creek)



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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Example Project

(Flint Creek)



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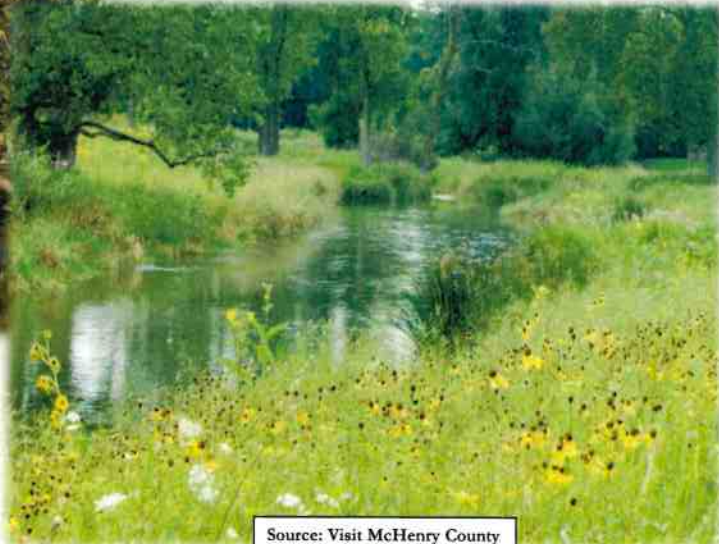
CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Example Project

(Nippersink Creek: Glacial Park)



Source: MCCD



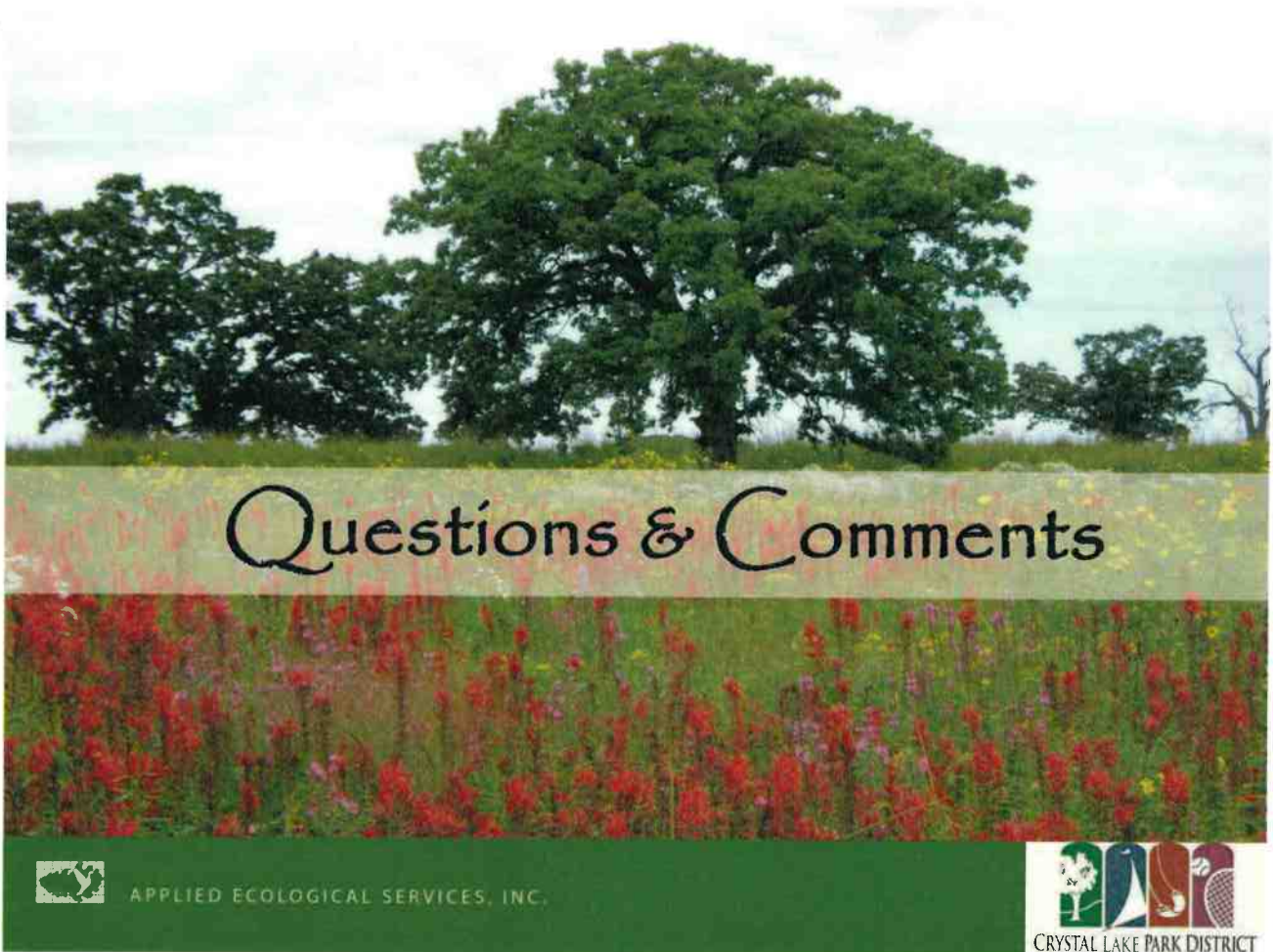
Source: Visit McHenry County



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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT



Project Schedule

Invasive Tree/Shrub Removal – Mid November 2017

Native Tree/Shrub Instal – Early Dec 2017 or spring 2018

Native Seeding/Blanketing – Early Dec 2017 or spring 2018

Install Stream Riffles – December 2017

Site Maintenance – Ongoing for 3 Years (2018-2020)



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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Eastern Cottonwood

Morton Arboretum:

Extremely fast growing, making it weak-wooded and brittle.
Produces suckers and aggressive roots.
Disease, pests, and problems
Roots are shallow-rooted and can invade septic and sewer systems.
The female trees can be messy, producing large quantities of seeds with white "fluff" attached.
Susceptible to a wide range of diseases including dieback, cankers, leaf spots, rusts and powdery mildew.
Insect include borers, aphids, caterpillars and scale.
Native geographic location and habitat
C-Value: 2

IL Wildflowers website:

Cultivation: The preference is full sunlight, moist conditions, and soil consisting of sandy loam or silty loam. Growth and development of young trees is quite fast. However, mature trees are usually short-lived (100 years or less). Temporary flooding during the spring is tolerated. Because the wood of the branches is rather soft and brittle, this tree is vulnerable to storm and ice damage. For female trees, the cottony hairs of the seeds may be released in such numbers that they can clog gutters and the filters of air conditioners. Because the spreading roots wander in search of water, individual trees should not be planted near sewers or water pipes.

MI Wildflower website:

A massive tree of floodplains, stream valleys and lakeshores, it can also establish on drier upland soils where there is adequate subsurface moisture to see it through droughts. In urban plantings it is a fast growing species that can quickly dwarf the landscape though its weak, brittle wood predisposes it to wind breakage and the copious amounts of cottony wind dispersed seeds can quickly clog up window screens, air conditioner coils and lawnmower filters. Male hybrid selections such as Siouxland, as well as others, avoid

WI Herbarium website:

Habitat: riverbanks, moist woods and prairies, lakeshores
Conservation Status: Native - potentially invasive



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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Red-tailed Hawk

- Eggs laid in March or April
- Young become independent at 4 months



Painted Turtle

- Eggs laid in May or June
- Hibernates in late fall and winter in shallow, stagnant, mud bottom, vegetated ponds and marshes.



APPLIED ECOLOGICAL SERVICES, INC.

Aqua Neat

Aqua Neat® Rises to the Top in Aquatic Weed Control.

For non-selective aquatic weed control, nothing beats Aqua Neat®. Aqua Neat controls almost 200 species of emerged weeds, including a wide range of broadleaf weeds, sedges and annual and perennial grasses, in and around flowing or stagnant fresh and estuaries or brackish water. Aqua Neat gives managers the convenience to control weeds in public, agricultural, commercial or residential settings.



TOUGH AQUATIC WEED SOLUTION

- Excellent control of cattail, willow and Johnsongrass
- Non-volatile
- Perfect for use in flowing, non-flowing or transient bodies of water
- Labeled for public, agricultural, commercial or residential settings
- Can be used in wildlife restoration and management areas



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CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

Site/Soil Preparation

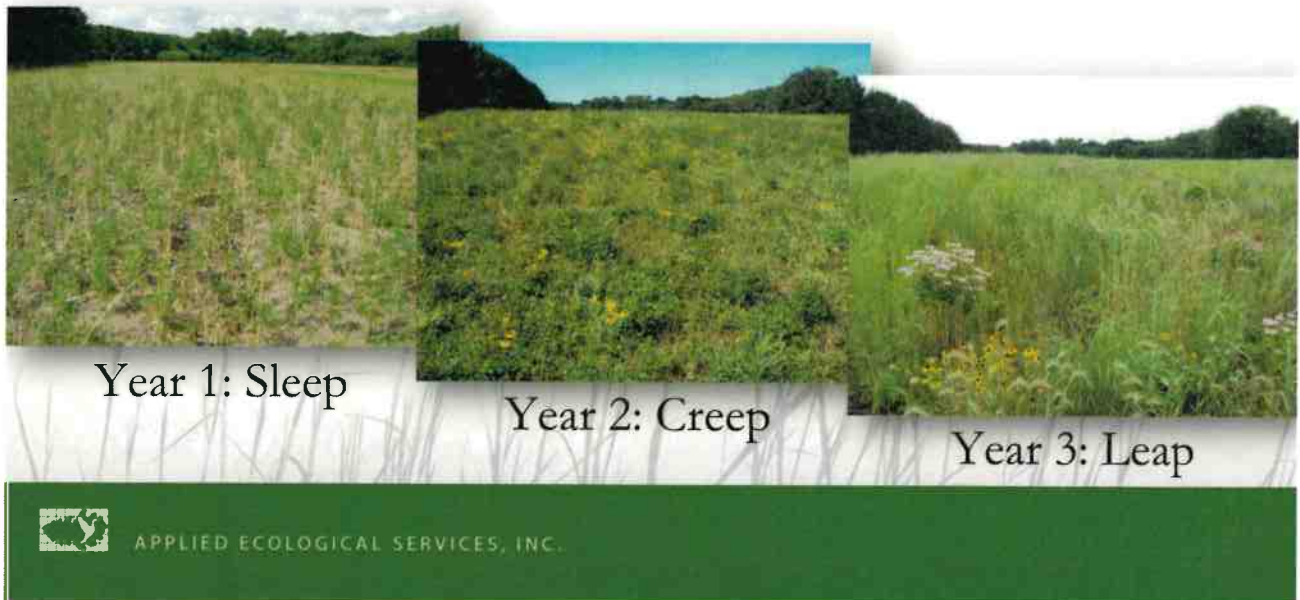
- Understand the soils.
- Weed control
 - Broad spectrum herbicide
 - Selective herbicides
- Chemical labels
 - How long do you wait to seed after application?
- Disc or Till
- Burning before seeding
- Follow up treatment



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The Sleep-Creep-Leap Growth Pattern of Native Plants

- Handout: What to expect, when, and why



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Prairie Restorations - What to Expect



The success for planting a prairie are as varied as the plants within one. Prairies are beautiful, they provide incredible moisture infiltration, they filter and improve the quality of water, they attract amazing numbers of wildlife and insects, and they require no watering or fertilizer.

Planting a prairie requires site preparation, installation, basic maintenance and-of-course-the-irrigation. The process is well worth it because from a nothing-as-unsightly-as-possible and ecologically remedial as a native prairie. The following explanation will help you understand the process involved in prairie restoration and what you can expect from the prairie planting.

Site Preparation

Site preparation for a prairie seeding uses many of the same practices and equipment a farmer might use in farming. It is usually necessary to apply herbicides to kill existing vegetation. Disking/tilling the soil is the second step and must be done to break up the roots of existing plants. A second herbicide application is sometimes applied to make sure that the existing vegetation is completely dead prior to prairie seeding.

Sleep-Creep-Leap Native Plant Strategy

Within the first year of a prairie planting, the question is always "What's the prairie? All I see are weeds!" The answer is "Yes, it is all weeds," but don't panic. This is normal and expected. Most weeds are annual plants, which means they germinate, grow, set seeds, and die in one growing season.

When native prairie plants are germinated which continue to grow year after year. Prairie plants invest most of their energy the first growing season (sleep phase) producing roots and above links above ground growth. During the second growing season (creep phase) roots continue to develop and the native plants show more above ground growth. It is during the third growing season (leap phase) when the prairie plants begin to mature.

First Growing Season Maintenance

When the vegetation reaches one to two feet, all existing vegetation is typically mowed to a height of six inches and may be required second time during the first growing season. Remember that the mow strategy is to give fast and tall, and mowing dramatically affects the seeds and prevents them from producing seeds while the native plants are too short to be injured by a six-inch mowing. Problematic perennial weeds are typically spot herbicided during the first growing season.

Second Growing Season Maintenance

Because maintenance mowing was done the first growing season, the number of annual weed seeds in the soil is greatly reduced but mowing may be needed again during the second growing season in combination with spot herbiciding of problematic perennial weeds. The prairie plants, with their well-established root systems, begin to allocate more energy to above ground growth. What you begin to see is called "maturation" as the perennial prairie plants replace the annual weeds.

Third Growing Season and Beyond Maintenance

Prairie plants with their increased production of above ground structures and their superior root systems will gradually outcompete the weeds during the third and fourth growing seasons. As the prairie, controlled burns can be implemented every three years. Another long-term maintenance strategy for prairies located near houses or buildings is mowing the prairie in fall each year after the plants have gone dormant.

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