

Prairie Crossing Homeowner's Association

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR OUR COMMON AREAS

2013- Michael Sands

The Prairie Crossing Homeowner's Association (HOA) is responsible for the management of approximately 252 acres of common area land and 27 acres of lakes and ponds. The land and cover types are shown in the attached figure (Land Cover 2013).

In 2002 the Prairie Crossing Homeowners Association adopted the following set of underlying principles for managing the real estate owned by the HOA.

The Prairie Crossing Homeowners' Association is committed to stewarding its common areas and natural areas such that the ecological health and functions improves every year until it reaches a "steady state" of sufficient quality that it enhances the surrounding open space in the Liberty Prairie Reserve. We recognize that the successful integration of a vibrant human community and a healthy and diverse native ecosystem requires balance and compromise. At a minimum, all common area management decisions should consider the following points:

1. Aesthetic expectations should be consistent with a healthy, rural environment.
2. All management decisions should recognize the importance of the interconnections within an ecosystem. The health of the entire ecosystem should be the principle criteria.
3. It is usually cheaper to prevent a problem than to fix it.
4. Healthy native ecosystems contain low levels of weeds.
5. Inputs that are not immediately used entirely by the intended plant community run off and become pollutants in downstream areas and water bodies.
6. No pesticides or fertilizers should be applied on common areas without being first reviewed (ingredient list, application procedures, MSD sheets) by the Environmental Consultant.
7. All proposed inputs for natural resource management should enhance the ultimate long-term biodiversity, stability and sustainability of the targeted ecosystem and affected ecosystems "downstream".

Each of the landscape types or ecosystems has specific long-term and multi-year management goals that are consistent year after year. The Annual Management Plan is an annual document laying out in detail the work proposed for that year to advance the long term goals for each area. Ecosystem

management is an ongoing program, and the annual management plans are designed to manage these areas for the long-term within the context of annual budgets.

Prairies and Wetlands: The planted prairies, meadows and wetlands were created from sterile chemically dependent farmland. They were planted with a broad variety of adapted native species. The prairie and wetland area under HOA management is 203 acres. The prairies and wetlands are critical for the treatment of our stormwater and the maintenance of extremely high water quality in our lakes and ponds. In addition to providing quality habitat for desired insects, birds and other wildlife, they provide aesthetically pleasing vistas that reflect the value the community places on conservation of our natural resources.

Ecosystem Goal: Establish healthy prairies and wetlands that are stable, functional native ecosystems with broad plant diversity and minimal weed pressure. Healthy prairies and wetlands have minimal woody shrubs and trees, and are not compromised by Eurasian weeds. While fully mature native prairies and wetlands need minimal management with occasional prescribed burns, the planted prairies are still in the establishment phase and still require more active management.

Hedgerows: The hedgerows are remnants from the prior use of the farm land. These hedgerows were planted by early settlers. The principal tree species are Osage Orange, Hackberry, Black Cherry, Mulberry, Norway Maple, Red Maple, Box Elder and Silver Maples.

Ecosystem Goal: Convert the hedgerows to predominantly healthy native tree species that provide attractive landscape features and high quality habitat for desired wildlife. Weedier species (Norway Maple, Mulberry, Box Elders etc) will be slowly replaced by high quality native species. Understory shrubs will be native species with no Eurasian weed species (buckthorn, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, tree of heaven etc).

Lakes/Ponds: The ponds and lake were dug as part of the initial residential development. While serving as the primary storage for storm water, their relationship with the wetlands and prairies allows for high quality habitat. In addition to their use as stormwater detention and wildlife habitat, the lakes are used for swimming, winter skating, fishing, and non-motorized boat traffic. The water quality has been maintained at a high standard, such that the IL DNR has stocked the ponds with 4 species of State Threatened or Endangered fish species.

Ecosystem Goal: Maintain a high standard of water quality, diversity of native aquatic vegetation and integrity of the shorelines. While native aquatic vegetation is critical to maintaining water clarity, excessive Eurasian weeds (e.g. Eurasian milfoil) and algae both detract from the habitat

value and the attractiveness of the lake. Managing base nutrient levels is a critical component of the lake management.

Trails & Fences: Over 10 miles of crushed gravel surface trails have been constructed at Prairie Crossing. The perimeter trail running from Lake Forest Hospital around to the Train Station, and the trail along Harris Road are public regional trails that have been conveyed to the Village of Grayslake. The internal trails are the property of the HOA. The trails provide recreational opportunities for walking, jogging, bicycling, and limited horseback riding. Additionally, they provide pedestrian and bicycle commuting opportunities.

Amenity Goal: Maintain the trails so they are attractive and safe to be used during all but the most extreme weather events. As trails are composed of gravel aggregate, they require regular management for weeds and structural integrity.

Formal Managed Landscapes with Turf, Landscape Trees and Shrubs, and Plantings

The major turf areas with landscape trees and formal planting include the Village Green, Station Village Green, Road Edges, and Center Courts of home clusters for a total of approximately 30 acres.

Ecosystem Goal: Provide aesthetically pleasing and comfortable recreational surfaces, using no irrigation and minimal fertilization and pesticides. Turf areas should be healthy with no noxious weeds and reflect well on the appearance of the community.

Prairie Crossing Land Use - 2013



2013 Management Objectives and Strategy:

Formal Managed Landscapes with Turf, Landscape Trees and Shrubs, and

Plantings: The major turf areas include the Village Green, Station Village Green, Road Edges, and Center Courts of home clusters for a total of approximately 30 acres.

Current Objective: Maintain lawns as aesthetically pleasing and comfortable recreational surfaces, using no irrigation and minimal fertilization and pesticides. Enhance the health and vitality of the landscape trees.

<i>Recommended 2013 Tasks/Practices</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
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<i>Recommended 2013 Tasks/Practices</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Two site inspections with LPF, LCM & Premier Management (April & September)	LPF Landscape Concepts Premier Management	NAC
Mow weekly (when warranted), (April 15 - Nov 30 Note these dates may want to be extended in future) Focal point of April site inspection will be to reduce any unnecessary mowing around light poles, boulders etc along the ROWs and trails.	Landscape Concepts	\$6,224
Maximize height of mowing to facilitate weed control	Landscape Concepts	Included
Use 2#/1000ft ² of liquid N plus Atriplax in split application (June & September)	Landscape Concepts	Included
Focused attention on the new native plant beds at Jones Point and Prairie Smoke Monitor plantings, cultivate, weed, water and augment plants as needed.	Landscape Concepts	
Continue the testing of compost tea as an alternative to synthetic fertilizer on Village Green One half of Village Green received application in 2012. Two additional applications are scheduled for 2013 (May & Sept)	Landscape Concepts & LPF	NAC
Fertilize all landscape trees in Sept/Oct with liquid slow release N plus Atriplax.	Landscape Concepts	Included
Expand mulch areas around landscape trees	Landscape Concepts	
Finalize decisions, leases, plans and install dog exercise area	WRD Environmental & LPF	
Monitor ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer	LCM	
Do fall hazing of migratory geese.	Wild Goose Chase	
Post all MSDs on web site,	Environmental Team Leader	NAC
Write and publish appropriate stories in Newsletter	Environmental Stewardship Committee	NAC
Document all applications.	Environmental Team Leader	NAC

Prairies & Wetlands: The prairie and wetlands are all planted, with oldest areas being 19 years old. The wetlands and prairie/meadow area under management in 2013 is 203 acres.

Current Objective: Facilitate the development of stable, functional native ecosystems with broad plant diversity and minimal weed pressure that provide quality habitat for desired wildlife and aesthetically pleasing vistas.

Recommended 2013 Tasks/Practices ***Responsible*** ***Estimated Cost***

Do Spring burns on priority areas (See PC Burn Priorities 2013)	Applied Ecological Services ETL managed volunteers	\$12,000
Do Fall burns on priority areas (See PC Burn Priorities 2013)	ETL managed volunteers	
Selectively herbicide for specific weeds. See Annual Calendar Summary attached Spring: Teasel, Reed canary grass, Late summer: Purple loosestrife, <i>Phragmites</i> , Reed canary grass	Jim O'Connor & volunteers Contractors as needed	\$900/mon
Selective cut and herbicide invasive woody species (Buckthorn, <i>Malus sp</i> Box elder, Willow, Cottonwood on 1) North berm (LCM) 2) SE lake edge (LCM) 3) west side of lake, north of Boat Dock (See PC Woody Invasives Priorities 2013)	Jim O'Connor & volunteers Contractors as needed	Included in above
Monitor presence & impact of <i>Galerucella</i> beetles on purple loosestrife	Joe Marencik, Jim O'Connor Mike Sands	NAC
Continue training and implementing volunteer stewardship volunteers program ("Prairie Patrol").	Mike Sands & Jim O'Connor	NAC
Continue selective prairie enhancement with over seeding of conservative forbs and planting of plugs.	Jim O'Connor & volunteers	\$3,500 in materials
Do spring monitoring and addling of goose nests. 2013 Permits received for egg addling. Submit reports and 2014 permit application to IDNR	Integrated Lakes Management	\$1,500
Monitor use of nesting structures	volunteers	NAC
Conduct appropriate homeowner education programs	Environmental Stewardship Committee	NAC
Review wetland restoration & lake edge stabilization grant opportunities	Joe Marencik, Mike Sands	NAC
Document all treatments.	Environmental Team Leader	NAC
Mow 2014 fire breaks in Nov	LPF managed labor	
Apply for 2014 burn permits in August (current permit expires 10/15/13)	Environmental Team Leader	NAC

Write and publish appropriate stories in Newsletter on monthly basis

Jim O'Connor, Environmental Stewardship Committee

NAC



Burn Priorities - 2013

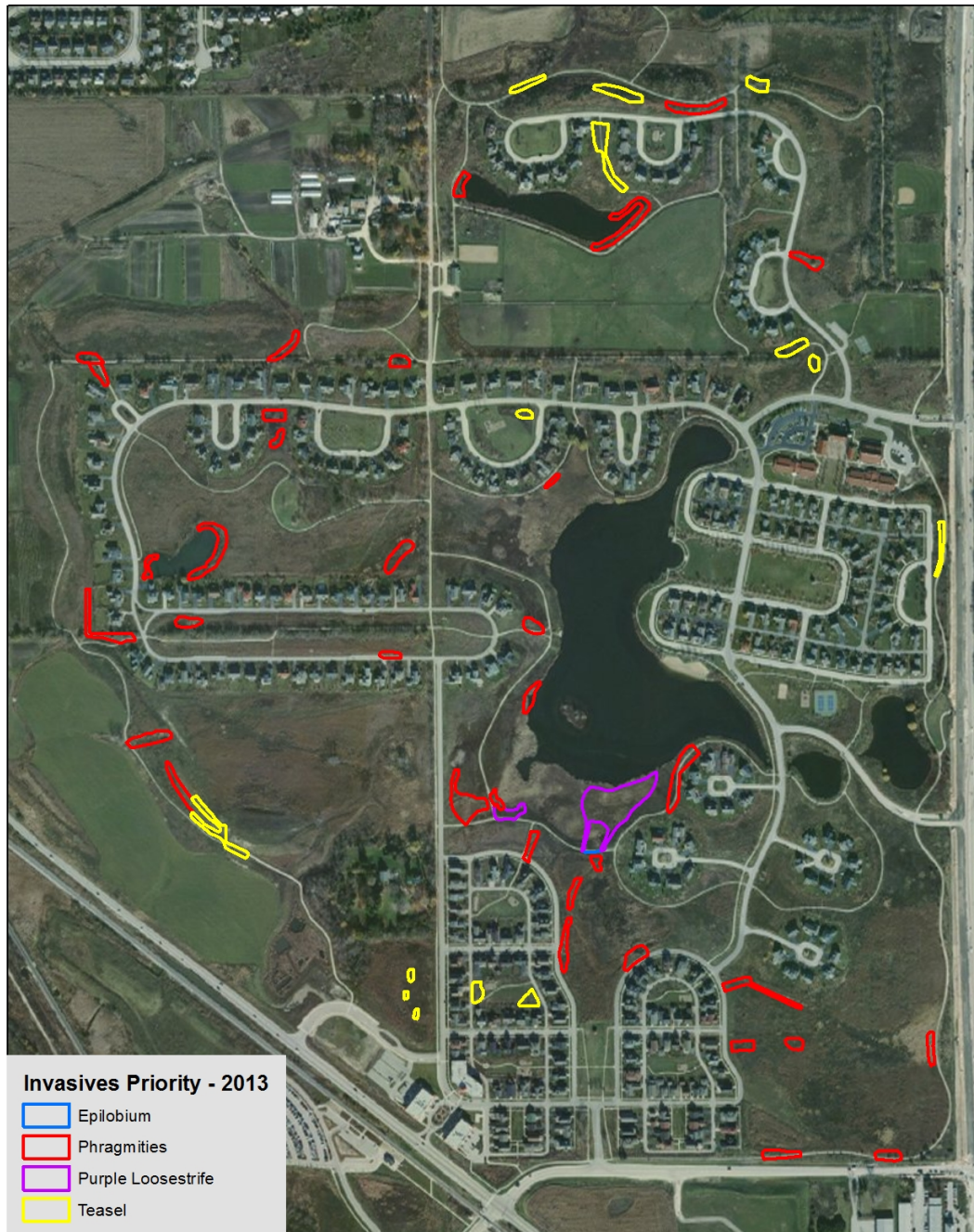
32.7 ac.



MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ANNUAL FIELD STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

With the continued caveat of weather conditions, the following is a summary by month of the expected natural area stewardship activities. Members of the ESC will also be included in many of these activities under the LPF's leadership. All herbicide use will conform to the guidelines of the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission (the least toxic herbicide at the lowest effective dose). Particular areas of concern are indicated on the following figure.

Invasive Species Priorities - 2013



JANUARY

- Brush cutting and cut stump herbicide with Garlon 4,
- Frost seeding of native species if the ground permits (thaw).

FEBRUARY

- Brush and tree clearing, as above,
- Wetland prescribed burns if conditions warrant,
- Order native plugs for spring delivery.

MARCH

- Brush clearing herbicide Garlon 4,
- Herbicide Garlic mustard at rosette stage glyphosate 1% before spring ephemerals emerge,
- Frost seed prairie and woodland seed if bare ground,
- Begin early spring prescribed burn season.

APRIL

- Sow prairie and woodland grass seed mixes, rake in if possible.
- Conduct prescribed burns,
- Plant trees,
- Plant bare root stock of conservative forbs,
- Herbicide cool season grasses (grass specific herbicide).
- Herbicide reed canary grass with glyphosate 5%,
- Prepare planting beds for plugs.

MAY

- Garlic mustard pull and remove bolting plants.
- Plant native grass and legume seed, rake in on bare or burnt ground.
- Conduct late spring prescribed burns.
- Plant small oaks,
- Herbicide crown vetch, bird's foot trefoil, thistle, teasel, and burdock rosettes preferably with Transline.
- Pull and remove Dame's Rocket.
- Plant conservative native plugs.

JUNE

- Harvest and plant seed from spring blooming native species.
- Pull and discard bolting garlic mustard, Queen Anne's lace, yellow and white sweet clover.
- Spray Canada thistle with Transline.
- Herbicide purple loosestrife & reed canary grass.
- Begin cutting and herbicide woody resprouts with 50% glyphosate.

JULY

- Pull or mow white sweet clover and remove,
- Herbicide Canada thistle and purple loosestrife,
- Cut and herbicide woody resprouts.

- Cut nodding thistle, remove seed heads.
- Mow large stands of tall goldenrod before flowering.

AUGUST-

- Mow White sweet clover and remove.
- Cut and herbicide honeysuckle, willows and buckthorn with 50% glyphosate.
- Herbicide purple loosestrife, Phragmites, teasel and thistle rosettes.

SEPTEMBER

- Collect seed from early flowering native plants,
- Continue to cut and herbicide woody resprouts,
- Herbicide reed canary grass.
- Herbicide stems of Oriental bittersweet and White mulberry with Garlon 4.

OCTOBER

- Collect seed for storage and use in 2014,
- Herbicide woody invasives, teasel rosettes, and reed canary grass (5% glyphosate).
- Frost seed forbs from late October through late March.
- Later in the month begin fall burn season.

NOVEMBER

- Continue fall burns especially wetlands,
- Frost seed forbs,
- Herbicide garlic mustard rosettes, cut brush herbicide with Garlon 4.

DECEMBER

- Frost seeding forbs,
- Cut teasel heads and remove,
- Continue brush clearing and herbicide cut stumps,
- Prescribed burns in wetlands if weather permits.

Hedgerows: The hedgerows are remnants from the prior use of the farm land. The principal tree species are Osage Orange, Hackberry, Black Cherry, Mulberry, Norway Maple, Red Maple, Box Elder and Silver Maples. The lower shrub layer is dominated by buckthorn, honeysuckle and wild grape. The current acreage approximately 4 acres.

Current Objective: Encourage the growth of healthy native tree species that provide attractive landscape features and quality habitat for desired wildlife with a minimum of weed species.

Recommended 2013 Tasks/Practices ***Responsible*** ***Estimated Cost***

Remove both species of Buckthorn, Honeysuckle in hedgerows along Harris Road. Cut and apply Garlon to stumps. Wick application of Garlon on small plants.	Jim O'Connor Environmental Stewardship Committee	NAC
Remove all woody invasives (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose etc) in hedgerows and berms in the Osage Orange, Hedgerow, and Prairie Trail quadrants on attached graphic. Cut and apply Garlon to stumps. Wick application of Garlon on small plants.	Landscape Concepts Management	Reserve Funds
Replant a limited number of oaks and native understory shrubs (red twig dogwood, hazelnut, sumac, viburnums) in hedgerow on west side of Harris Road entrance to compete with buckthorn.	Jim O'Connor & volunteers	\$2,000
In old farmstead south of Prairie Orchid, begin replanting with oaks, sassafras, sour gum, hackberries, redbuds	ETL managed staff, Volunteers PCCS students	\$2,000
Prune as necessary to eliminate dangerous snags. Leave snags for wildlife habitat where they present no human danger.	Landscape Concepts Management	
Monitor use of nesting structures	Volunteers	NAC
Document all treatments.	Environmental Team Leader	NAC

Hedgerow & Natural Area Trees Management Zones



Lakes/Ponds: The ponds and lake were dug as part of the initial residential development. While serving as the end storage for storm water, their relationship with the wetlands and prairies allows for high quality habitat. The water quality has been maintained at a high standard, such that the IL DNR has stocked the ponds with 4 species of State listed fish species.

Current Objective: Maintain a high standard of water quality, diversity of aquatic vegetation and integrity of the shorelines. In addition to their use as habitat, the lakes are used for swimming, skating, fishing, and non-motorized boat traffic.

<i>Recommended 2013 Tasks/Practices</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Explore potential for hydraulic nutrient removal and use of sediment containment bags for shoreline stabilization on Nesting Island	Joe Marencik WRD Environmental	\$6,000
Develop plans & permitting for shoreline stabilization in time for Fall 2013 work if budget and field conditions are appropriate.	Joe Marencik WRD Environmental	\$2,000
Evaluate beach sand migration alternatives.	Joe Marencik Integrated Lakes Management	
Monitor Lake Leopold aquatic vegetation that will be replacing the Eurasian Milfoil and other aquatic weeds knocked back by whole lake treatment in early 2012. (See 2012 Lake Management options) Should expect Coontail as one possible problem.	Joe Marencik Mike Sands Integrated Lakes Management	NAC
Possible spot treatment for of coontail and/or curlyleaf pondweed in late July/Early August	Integrated Lake Management Joe Marencik	
Monitor filamentous algae populations for potential spot treatments	Integrated Lake Management Joe Marencik	
Continue to monitor water quality monthly in Leopold Lake (DO, BOD, N, P, Cl, temperature, clarity, algae and zooplankton species composition). Also record lake level.	Joe Marencik	NAC
Monitor beach bacteria levels and manage beach as appropriate.	County Health Dept	
Monitoring for potentially toxic blue algae blooms	Joe Marencik Integrated Lakes Management	
Conduct 1 water quality evaluation & fish survey of Sanctuary Pond	Integrated Lakes Management	
Monitor muskrat activity, evaluate control options	Joe Marencik	NAC
Test creation of small gravel bed(s) in Sanctuary Pond for breeding of Iowa Darter	Integrated Lake Management	

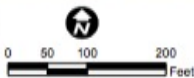
Work with IDNR and other county Forest Preserve Districts to evaluate additional dispersal of T&E fish from SP	Mike Sands Integrated Lakes Management	NAC
Monitor spring goose populations and addle goose eggs.	Integrated Lakes Management	\$1,500
Do Fall hazing of migrating geese to ensure that all populations move on.	Wild Goose Chase	
Document all treatments.	Environmental Team Leader	NAC



Sediment Change
 Low / No Change
 High Increase up to 1.7 ft

Lake Information:
 Area: 21.6 Acres
 Max Depth: -15.9 ft
 Mean Depth: -6.5 ft

Mapping Information:
 Data Collection Performed: March 2012
 GPS: Mapping Grade (sub-foot accuracy)
 Points Collected: 7,670
 Reference Point: Adjusted to Full Pool



Lake Leopold
 Lake County, IL



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Trails & Fences: Over 10 miles of crushed gravel surface trails have been constructed at Prairie Crossing. The perimeter trail running from Lake Forest Hospital around to the Train Station, and the trail along Harris Road are public regional trails that have been conveyed to the Village of Grayslake. The internal trails are the property of the HOA.

Current Objective: The trails provide recreational opportunities for walking, jogging, bicycling, and limited horseback riding. Additionally, they provide pedestrian and bicycle commuting opportunities.

<i>Recommended 2011 Tasks/Practices</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Contract/Cost</i>
Mow trail edges (2 ft) in July & Sept, Focal point of April site inspection will be to reduce any unnecessary mowing around light poles, boulders etc.	Landscape Concepts	In Bid
Apply two seasonal (May & August) applications of RoundUp plus marker for weed control.	Landscape Concepts	\$2,500
Herbicide willows alongside trail on west side of outlot and along Lower Pond in Village.	ETL directed staff	
Raise canopy of all trees within 10 feet of trails	Contracted labor under ETL direction	
Repairs of surface as needed (see Trail Maintenance Priorities 2013) 1) washouts 2) drainage issues Monitor results of 2012 repairs, suggest new areas for repair, effect repairs mid-summer 2013	Bill Pogson Landscape Concepts	
Monitor and replace degraded split rail fence sections along Route 45 & Casey Road	LPF managed labor	

Trail Maintenance Priorities - 2013

