



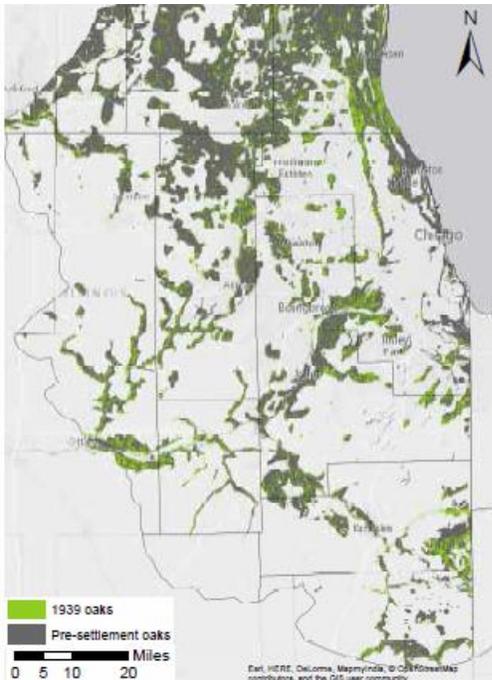
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2016

OAK ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY PLAN

Our vision for the future of oaks and oak ecosystems region is:

A physical landscape in which:

1. A regional network of oak ecosystems is developed and maintained that maximizes high quality interior habitat and landscape-level connectivity.
2. Remnant oak ecosystems are protected and managed to restore or maintain biodiversity and ecosystem structures and functions.
3. Oaks are planted, and oak ecosystems are created or restored across a range of land uses and ownerships.
4. Threats to oaks and oak ecosystems are managed proactively and removed whenever feasible.



A social landscape in which:

5. The story of the regional oak legacy is told widely to a variety of audiences in an authentic and engaging way.
6. A coordinated regional stewardship network is focused on maintaining and enhancing oaks and oak ecosystems in all of their incarnations.
7. The many values and services associated with oaks and oak ecosystems are understood and promoted to a wide variety of audiences.

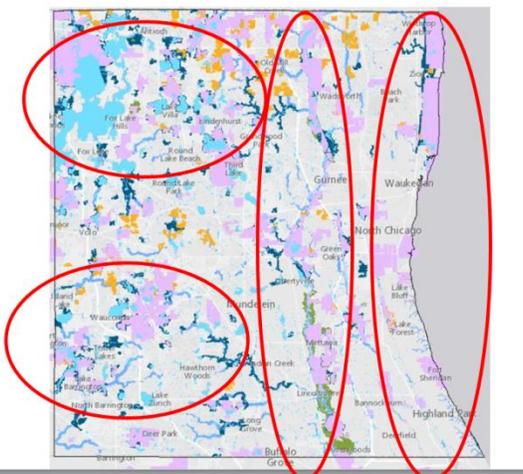
This vision builds on the goals of the 1995 Midwest Oak Ecosystem Conference and is consistent with goals outlined in the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan and the Illinois Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies Plan.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE MODEL AND STRATEGY

A reminder that there will be a presentation and work session to the Committee of the Whole by the Conservation Fund on February 4th to present the Green Infrastructure Model and Strategy to Commissioners and partners.

We will be talking about the 10,000-acre ecological complexes, large scale wetland, prairie and woodland habitats, Lake Michigan opportunities, water resources and ecosystem services valuation.

February 4th will mark the date of our final review before completion of the project.



DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Removals began on Monday, November 30, 2015 and as of January 15, 2016, 234 deer have been removed. The number of deer remaining to be removed are as follows: 14 at Grant Woods, 8 at Middlefork Savanna and 1 at Ryerson. The removal program will re-start on February 11, 2016.

Fort Sheridan Great Lakes Fish and Ecosystem Restoration Program

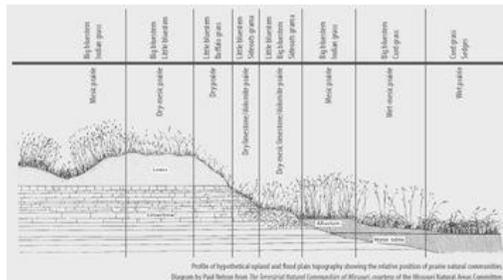


Habitat restoration of the bluffs and ravines at Forest Sheridan is continuing and is being conducted by Conservation Land Stewardship (Davey Resource Group) and will proceed to March 2016.

The District is participating in weekly progress meetings with the ACOE contract administrator, partners and the contractor.

Native Seed Nursery: Native seed nursery is receiving seed orders and preparing mixes for different preserves.

Volunteers: Held their quarterly meeting on January 12, 2016 and Allison Sacerdote from the Lincoln Park Zoo provided a presentation on the Zoo’s re-introduction efforts with the Forest Preserve



On-Going 2015/16 Winter Clearing Efforts Scheduled

- Fort Sheridan
- Greenbelt
- Singing Hills/Kettle Grove
- Southern Des Plaines Woodland Restoration Sites:
 - Captain Daniel Wright Woods (4 projects)
 - Edward L Ryerson Conservation Area
 - MacArthur Woods
- Grassy Lake
- Spring Bluff
- Van Patten Woods
- Grant Woods
- Cuba Marsh
- Lakewood
 - Preserve Boundary Enhancement
 - Schreiber Bog Area
- Wadsworth Savanna

Contractor

- Conservation Land Stewardship
- Trees “R” Us
- ENCAP
- Clean Cut Tree Service (3)
- Tallgrass Restorations (1)
- ILM
- ILM
- Homer Tree
- In-House Staff
- Applied Ecological Services
- Inland Landscape Group
- Trees ”R” Us
- Trees “R” Us
- Clean Cut Tree Service